

**Monday**

Family division  
Spectrum meets a family  
(below) divided by the  
Berlin wall

**Down south**  
Christopher Thomas  
reports from Atlanta on  
the Jackson campaign  
trail

**Troubled Wattaus**  
Brian Appleyard on the  
background to a key  
meeting at the troubled  
Arts Council

**Class conscious**  
Should teachers be  
masters of morality?  
Monday Page reports

**Cupful**  
Full reports of all four FA  
Cup sixth round ties

## Greece admits blunder

Greece reversed its decision to recall its ambassador in Ankara, after receiving a satisfactory explanation of Thursday's naval incident in the Aegean and assurances that Turkey had no provocative intentions. Greece had claimed that Turkish warships had fired on a Greek destroyer. Earlier report, page 6

## Peace women's vigilance pledge

Peace women said that they would not be caught napping the next time a cruise missile transporter leaves the Greenham Common airbase. "The US Air Force had a practice run last night - so did we. We have learnt our lesson from this experience," one said.

Convoy's journey, page 2

## Lloyd's in front

Lloyd's Bank announced the best results of the big four clearing banks with full-year profits before tax up by 27 per cent to £419m.

## British Gulf

British seamen called for the entire Gulf to be classified a "warlike zone", which would enable them to claim danger money and extra life insurance.

## Painting saved

A painting sold by Lord Spencer to an American was bought by the National Gallery, hours before the suspension of its export licence was due to end.

## Tax relief threat

Time may be running out for tax relief on deeds of covenant, which carry a potential cost to the Exchequer of £9 billion a year.

## Breath-test row

The Government faces renewed demands to change Britain's drink-driving laws after criticism of the intoximeter breath-test.

## Poison plot

Seven people were being questioned after RUC detectives foiled a plot to spread poison in a chainstore group.

## Banker sought

Italian police have been ordered to bring Signor Luigi Mennini, a top Vatican banker, before a parliamentary inquiry in the P2 masonic lodge.

## Cannabis denial

Alan Smith, the manager of the England cricket team in Pakistan, said there was no truth in the rumours that players had smoked cannabis while touring New Zealand.

**Leader page 9**  
Letters: On El Salvador, from Dr V. Bulmer-Thomas; medical manpower, from Dr H. W. K. Acheson; charities and VAT, from Mr M. Brambell.  
**Leading articles:** Cyprus; Telephone tapping; Usinov in India.  
**Features, page 8**  
Things I wish I knew, by Bernard Levin; death of a Tory gentleman; Holland, Britain's cultural outpost.  
**Obituary, page 10**  
Miss Imogen Holst, Professor Murray Drennan, Mr Michael Wilde.

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# Mortgage rates to fall - barring Budget surprises

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Mortgage rates are set to come down by half to three-quarters of a percentage point from the beginning of next month, providing the Chancellor springs no unpleasant surprises on the building societies in Tuesday's Budget. The societies will take a final decision on how much to cut mortgage rates and the rates paid to investors at a special meeting called for March 16, three days after the Budget. But building society chiefs have already mapped out the likely options and with savings still flooding into the societies at a rapid pace, homeowners look certain to see their monthly mortgage payments come down from April 1.

The recent fall in domestic interest rates which encouraged Barclays Bank to cut its base lending rate from 9 per cent to 8.75 per cent has helped to concentrate the minds of building society chiefs and put the long-awaited cut in the mortgage rate beyond doubt.

At the regular monthly council meeting of the Building Societies Association this week, the various options were considered and three were put forward. They are reducing the present 11.25 per cent mortgage rate by half a point to 10.75 per cent and cutting the ordinary share rate, either by a similar amount of three-quarters of a point to 6.5 per cent. The other possibility is to cut both the mortgage and investment rates by three-quarters of a point, to

MORTGAGE COSTS			
Monthly repayments net of basic rate income tax			
	Building society rate%		
Mortgage	11.25	10.75	10.5
£10,000	£ 77	£ 75	£ 74
£20,000	£154	£150	£148
£30,000	£231	£224	£221
£50,000	£504	£486	£477

\*Upper limit for tax relief  
\*Gross repayments before tax relief

howls of protest and could cost the societies £100m this year, has made a change in rates even more urgent.

The cost of the extra tax will be borne by building society investors and borrowers. Without it, building societies would be able either to cut mortgage rates more or reduce rates for investors by less.

Ironically, however, the extra tax imposed by the Government could make it easier for new borrowers to find mortgages. This is because societies are likely to run down the amount of liquidity they hold in government stocks, where it will

now be taxed, and put it into mortgages instead.

The societies use their liquidity as a buffer against sudden changes in the market which could reduce their inflows. But they can borrow increasingly on the City's wholesale markets, and there were discussions at this week's council meeting on the likelihood of reducing liquidity levels.

Some societies favour reducing the present high liquidity ratio of about 20 per cent eventually to around 17 per cent. This would be equivalent to about 100,000 extra mortgages.

Although mortgage demand is set to pick up smartly in the spring, and new commitments last month for about £1.8 billion of new loans already signal this, the societies are still attracting large sums. Net receipts for February, due to be announced next week, are expected to total around £950m, the second best monthly figure on record and higher than January's £926m. Including wholesale funds raised by issuing certificates of deposit and bonds, the societies will have taken in close to £1 billion last month.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, could yet upset their calculations if he introduces unexpected changes in the Budget. After suddenly finding themselves hit with a new tax on gilts profits, most societies believe that the worst is behind them.

## Union fury as Acas official joins GCHQ

By David Nicholson-Lord

An emergency meeting of the Council of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) is being sought by TUC leaders after last night's disclosure that a senior Acas official has been posted to the Government's communication centre at Cheltenham to advise management on staff relations.

The move, which comes after the Government's dissolution of trade union at GCHQ, brought a swift and angry response from union leaders. Mr Len Murray, the TUC's general secretary, condemned it as "monumental incompetence" and Mr William McCall, chairman of the civil service unions' policy committee, said it seriously called into question Acas's independence.

Mr Murray said the TUC's three representatives on the Acas council would seek a special meeting "to make it unequivocally clear that Acas

itself is not and will not become associated in anyway with the Government and management tactics in GCHQ".

The unions' anger, which is likely to raise the question of their continued cooperation with Acas has been intensified by the fact that Mr John Lambert, the official seconded to GCHQ, is the head of Acas's conciliation division. He is a civil servant.

Mr Lambert's task at Cheltenham, where he is likely to spend at least three months, will involve advising on new management-staff relations, including a staff association. The Department of Employment described the move last night as "quite normal" and denied suggestions that it brought Acas's independence into question.

According to the department the appointment was merely in response to a request for help from GCHQ management.

## Monday Club official resigns over 'racism'

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The political adviser to the Monday Club, Mr John Pinniger, has resigned because he considers that the group is harbouring extremists and racists.

He said yesterday that there were club members, not necessarily Conservatives, who were "simply anti-immigrant and anti-black - that is racist". They wanted repatriation, voluntary or not.

The last straw was when club members recently met Mr David Waddington, the Home Office Minister responsible for immigration and community relations, and insulting things were said by some of his fellow delegates about Mr Derek Laund,

a black West Indian and a friend of Mr Pinniger, who is secretary of the club's immigration committee.

Efforts a year ago to make membership of either the Conservative Party or the Ulster Unionist Party a condition of belonging to the club, had failed, he said.

Mr Pinniger said that he did not want to be associated with members of the club connected with Tory Action and with groups against which the Young Conservatives' national advisory committee has warned.

His other reasons for going were that the club was "fizzling out", losing membership and getting out of touch

## Poll shows Hart ahead of Reagan

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Two new opinion polls published yesterday pinpoint the main reason why Senator Gary Hart is making such a spectacular surge in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Both show that voters believe Mr Hart would have a better chance of beating President Reagan in the November election than his chief rival, Mr Walter Mondale.

According to a new Gallup poll Mr Hart would beat President Reagan by 52 to 43 per cent if the election were held today. Mr Reagan would win by 50 to 45 per cent if Mr Mondale were his Democratic challenger.

A separate poll in the newspaper USA Today gives the President a narrow lead over Mr Hart, 46 to 40 per cent.

However, the President would crush Mr Mondale by a humiliating 54 to 34 per cent margin.

Both polls dramatically illustrate the huge increase in Mr Hart's popularity since he won the New Hampshire primary less than two weeks ago. The USA Today poll shows that he was now ahead of Mr Mondale by 34 to 32 per cent. This compares with a lead of 47 to two per cent which Mr Hart had over Mr Mondale a month ago.

The polls make depressing reading for the former Vice-President as he heads towards the nine key primaries and caucuses to be held next "Super Tuesday".

Local polls in Massachusetts and Florida, show that Mr Hart has either caught up with or overtaken Mr Mondale.

What makes Hart tick, page 6



Child of the militia: A little girl reflecting the agony of Beirut at a Muslim Amal sniping position along the 'green line' living with death, back page

## Clashes in Beirut on eve of peace talks

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Muslim and Christian militias in Beirut yesterday tested their strength in advance of next week's reconciliation talks in Lausanne by indiscriminately bombing both sectors of the Lebanese capital.

Shells exploded along the seacoast near the British Embassy and even around the old city lighthouse, where some of Beirut's fish restaurants were crowded with customers. Artillery fire was also directed at the Christian suburb of Ashrafieh, where a spokesman for the Christian militia ominously announced that they would not necessarily abide by the conclusions of the talks in Switzerland.

Both Mr Pierre Gemayel, leader of the Phalangist party, and his ally, Ex-president Camille Chamoun, have stated that they will not "submit to Syrian pressure" at Lausanne and have refused to discuss any constitutional reforms until all foreign armies have left Lebanon.

Muslim opposition leaders, who are travelling to Switzerland today, are insisting that more power be given to the country's Muslim community and that there should be a decentralization of government. Most would prefer to keep the presidency in Christian Maronite hands but to transfer power to a prime ministerial administration.

The increasingly uncompromising stand within the Maronite alliance - which still goes under the title of "Lebanese Forces" - is the result of a

growing power struggle within the Phalangist militia, where resistance to President Gemayel's new relationship with Syria is strongest.

The Phalangist officer who arranged the President's first meeting with Mr Suleiman Franjeh, his old pro-Syrian opponent, in Batroun last month, was assassinated by some of his colleagues. The Phalangists have denied reports that three of their men were killed in an internal political dispute.

A spokesman for the Phalangist-Chamounist alliance said yesterday that he was "not very optimistic" that the Lausanne conference would succeed, because of what he called Syrian interference. The militias, he said, would take their own position over the results of the talks and would not be bound by any agreements reached in Switzerland.

Assad accused, page 6

## Strike likely to shut down half Britain's mines

By Barrie Clement and Tim Jones

The miners' strike over pit closures and redundancies looked certain last night to spread from Yorkshire and Scotland to engulf more than half the British coalfield.

Support for the action is, however, far from unanimous and a move to organize ballots in moderate areas has started. Leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers in South Wales and Kent urged their members to join the stoppage and miners in Durham were instructed to stop work from midnight last night.

Mr Ray Chubb, the area council president in traditionally moderate Nottinghamshire, said his 34,000 members would hold their own secret poll with a recommendation to strike.

Flying pickets expected to visit Nottinghamshire from more militant areas to the north were told to stay away by Mr Chubb until the ballot next week. There are similar moves for balloting other areas, including North Wales.

By last night only Leicester-shire had decided against the stoppage.

The strike, which takes effect from the first shift on Monday, will now almost certainly involve more than 100,000 of the union's 180,000 members.

There were some signs of a protest against the action in Scotland, where one pit voted against the stoppage, and at a South Wales delegates' meeting yesterday, however, in both these usually militant areas there is little likelihood of a full-scale rebellion against the strike call.

Other area councils are to meet this weekend to decide whether to join the stoppage. Less militant areas may be swayed by the National Coal Board's announcement of increased redundancy payments by any agreements with Syria is strongest.

The board's claims that some pits in Scotland would not join the action were described by Mr Eric Clarke, the Scottish miners' general secretary, as an exaggeration.

The board said yesterday that there were coal stocks of 23 million tonnes at pitheads, the highest, apart from last year, Power stations also have stocks of 26 million tonnes, a spokesman said.

He added that action by rail unions to exacerbate the strike would be ineffective because of the high coal stocks at power stations.

The strike decision by the South Wales meeting was not unanimous. Some thought the Yorkshire miners should be "made to sweat a bit", because of their failure to back the Welshmen in their unsuccessful

## Students to quit CND

From Our Correspondent, Cambridge

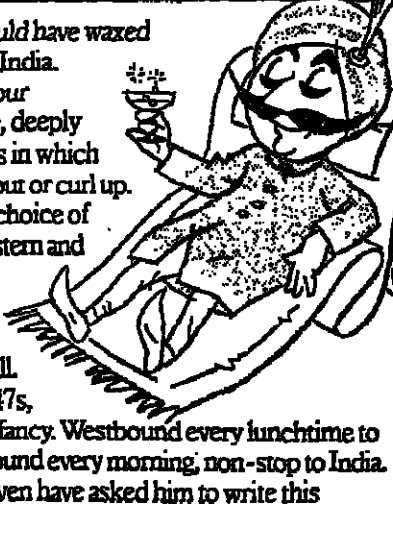
The Cambridge Students Union is to end its support for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament after they voted against a motion to continue the union's liaison with CND.

As Cambridge students voted for their union officers in the annual election, they were also asked to vote on a motion that the union oppose cruise and

Cruise convoy, page 2

## Rudyard never kipped in such comfort.

Kipling would have waxed lyrical about Air-India. Especially our First Class. Wide, deeply comfortable seats in which he could stretch out or curl up. An equally wide choice of the very finest Eastern and Western cuisine. Beautiful hostesses at his 'every beck and call. The very latest 747s, soaring flights of fancy. Westbound every lunchtime to New York, eastbound every morning, non-stop to India. We could even have asked him to write this advertisement. But chances are he'd have been lost for words. Contact your travel agent or call Air-India on 01-491 7979.



## £300m UK arms loan for Egypt

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain has offered Egypt a £300m loan to buy weapons and other military equipment in this country, the semi-official Cairo newspaper, Al-Ahram, announced yesterday.

The offer was made to Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, the Egyptian Defence Minister, during his visit to Britain this week.

The report, which had a London deadline, said that the loan would be repayable over eight years at 3 per cent interest, and that the offer would be put to President Mubarak on the minister's return to Cairo.

One project which the Egyptians want to pursue is the joint construction of tracked vehicles to turn their Russian-made guns into self-propelled systems.

Last night the Ministry of Defence confirmed that export credit guarantees were available to Egypt, but would give no other details.

The Sports Minister, Mr Neil Macfarlane, said that he did not anticipate Parliament or the Government taking action over the BMA's report. He considered that the board already had its own very adequate safeguards.

## Boxing board doctor denies BMA brain damage claim

By Nicholas Timmins

Between 70 and 80 scans have been made of the brains of active professional boxers without one showing any sign of brain damage.

The BMA's report quoted five studies of scans on boxers' brains, all showing brain damage. Two United States studies showed that five out of 10 American professionals had marked brain atrophy on the scan and that 53 per cent of 38 former boxers had abnormal scans.

In a study of Scandinavian champions signs of brain damage were found in five out of six professionals and four out of eight amateurs, the BMA reported.

Dr Whitson said that he would be happy to see the board's scans examined independently. The assessment of them had in any case been done by independent medical experts and not by the board.

He suggested that scans might show brain damage in

it, either to our working party or by publishing it in a reputable medical journal. We would very much like to see this done.

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## BBC seeks 'blacking' injunction

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

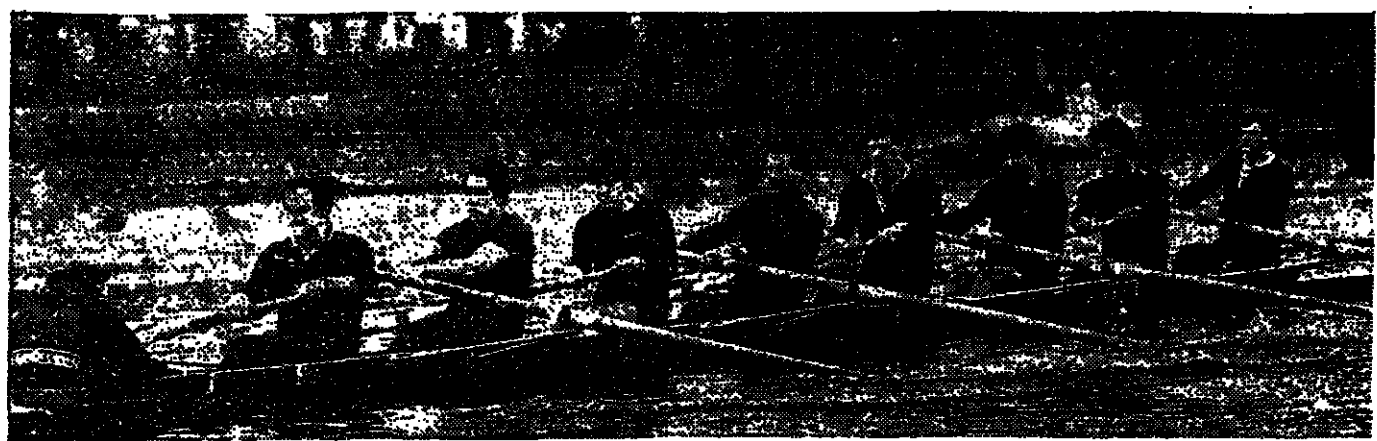
The BBC last night decided to seek an injunction today to stop the National Union of Journalists "blacking" Mr David Dimbleby, who is due to present the television Budget programme on Tuesday.

The leadership of the NUJ immediately attacked the decision as "foolish".

The BBC said it was undertaking the legal action "with the greatest regret". A statement added: "Mr Dimbleby is a broadcaster and it remains our intention that he presents the Budget Day programme on BBC1."

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Rowing for the ninth: Oxford are favourites to win their ninth successive Boat Race on Saturday, March 17. The Oxford crew (left) is: R C Clay (Eton and New Coll), bow; C L B Long (St Paul's and Oriel); J A G H Stewart (Harrow and Pembroke); D M Rose (Queensland Univ and Balliol); W M Evans (Queen's Univ, Canada, and Univ); G R D Jones (Princeton and Magdalen), cox. For Cambridge: A Reynolds (Imperial Coll and Pembroke), bow; G A D Barnard (Canterbury, and Jesus); J D Kinsella (Bedford Modern and St Catharine's), stroke; P Hobson (Bellevue, Bradford, and Christ's), cox. (Photograph: Bill Warnhurst.)



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## Spencer's Rosa goes to National Gallery

By David Hewson  
Arts Correspondent

A seventeenth-century painting by Lord Spencer to an unnamed American buyer last year was bought by the National Gallery for £350,000, hours before the suspension of its export licence was due to end at midnight on Thursday.

The work, a scene of a witches' coven with dismembered bodies, monsters and violent rites, will go on display at the gallery on Monday.

The painting, "Witches and their Incantations," is by the Neapolitan, Salvatore Rosa, who produced studies of demonic scenes.

It has been in England, where it created a stir in eighteenth-century drawing rooms, since at least 1761, when it was bought by the first Lord Spencer.

It has been publicly exhibited only once, briefly in 1973, but it was on show at the Spencer family home, Althorp.

It will hang alongside the gallery's two Rosa landscapes and a self-portrait, although its subject matter and style is different.

Rosa was a poet as well as an artist and wrote a famous poem, *La Sirena* (The Witch).

He completed the painting in Florence in 1646 when intellectuals had a taste for witchcraft and the occult.

Museum staff hope to decipher a clear runic inscription which has been painted in one section of the canvas.

Mr Michael Helston, the gallery's curator of late Italian pictures, said no other work was comparable to the painting in any museum, gallery or private collection in Britain.

The work, depicting mutilation, child sacrifice, necromancy and dismemberment, is actually handled with understatement, and bears none of the explicitness of, for example, Hieronymus Bosch.

## Seven questioned after RUC foils poison plot against foodstores

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Seven suspected members of the illegal Ulster volunteer force were being questioned last night after the police foiled a plot by a gang to spread poison in a chainstore group unless a six-figure ransom was paid.

Detectives set an elaborate trap believed to involve fake notes to trick the gang into believing they were going to be paid more than £100,000 by Dunnes Stores, a large privately-owned company, with stores in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland.

The trap involved a pre-arranged "drop" where the cash demanded from the group, which has 81 shops selling food and clothing, was to be left.

After working in close cooperation with the republic's police, RUC officers intercepted a van and motor cycle in the area of Dromore, co Down, three days ago and arrested two men.

Twenty four hours later the RUC arrested five more people in Craigavon. All are being held under the Emergency Provisions Act which allows suspects to be detained for up to seven days.

Details of the ransom demanded were revealed yesterday in a brief statement from solicitors in Dublin acting for the store's group. It said the company wished the public to know it had received a threat

with a demand for "substantial sum of money from a loyalist paramilitary organization in Northern Ireland."

"This organization threatened to spread poison in our stores in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland if their demands were not met."

It is the second time in less than three years that the firm has been the centre of ransom demands. In 1981 a republican paramilitary group abducted Mr Benn Dunne, son of the firm's founder. They demanded £500,000 and although he was released unharmed after six days, reports that a ransom was later paid had never been verified.

## Maze murder intelligence link

From a Staff Reporter, Belfast

The enigmatic epitaph of a murdered prison official raised fresh controversy yesterday as the Rev Ian Paisley alleged that one interpretation could be that British Intelligence was involved in his killing.

With fresh demands for a public inquiry into conditions at the Maze prison, various interpretations were being placed on the final message of Mr William McConnell, Elmhurst, others were speculating on his state of mind when he wrote the letter on February 3, the day after he appeared on television in silhouette to defend himself and the prison service against criticisms made in the *Hennessy* report into last year's escape at the Maze. The letter was read out at his funeral on Thursday.

Mr Paisley said there were two interpretations which could be put on the words in the letter. Mr McConnell, aged 35,

had written: "You will be gathered today asking questions which only a full investigation of the facts will reveal. Clearly, in attempting that process to continue, someone has decided that I should play no further part in the proceedings. I feel sorry for them, and can only pray that their part in the story will one day be revealed."

One interpretation was that British intelligence had wanted to silence Mr McConnell because his criticisms of the Government, and the second was that the Provisional IRA wanted him killed because it feared he would expose its command structure in the Maze.

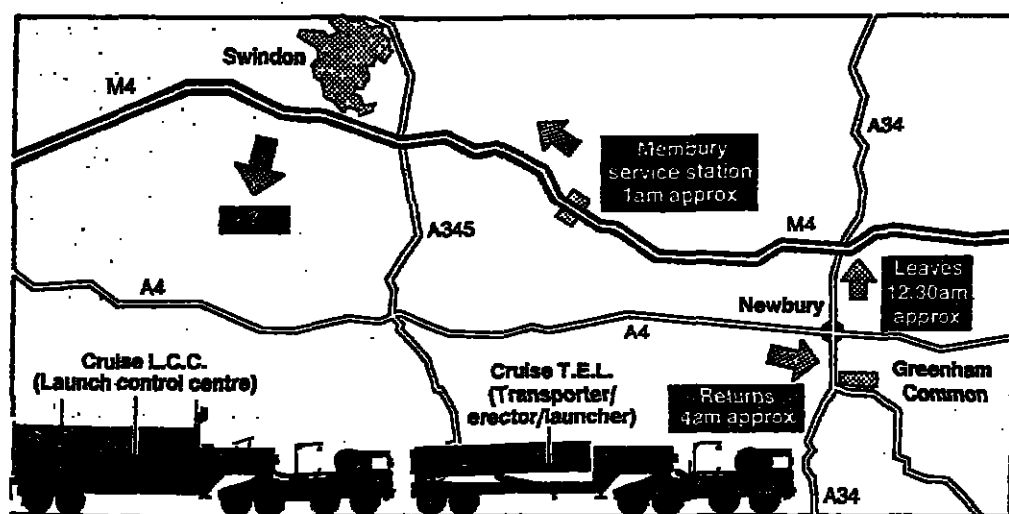
Mr Paisley, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, who at one point used the term "Northern Ireland Office interest," said he was not alleging that British intelligence was in

any way involved in the murder. Although he was inclined to accept that the Provisional IRA killed Mr McConnell, Mr Paisley's innuendo was loud and clear.

When asked what he meant by Northern Ireland Office interests, he replied: "I am talking about British intelligence who would have an interest in silencing a person who would be a grave embarrassment. I am not saying that is my conclusion; I am saying that is a conclusion which could be drawn and has been drawn by sections of the community."

The Northern Ireland Office reacted angrily, calling Mr Paisley's comment a "disgraceful suggestion" which it hoped he would withdraw.

The Provisional IRA claimed responsibility for murdering Mr McConnell because it alleged he was involved in the beating of prisoners.



## Cruise convoy in exercise

By Rodney Cowton and Pat Healy

The Ministry of Defence confounded peace protesters early yesterday with the first token dispersal of cruise missile vehicles from their base at Greenham Common, Berkshire.

The convoy, which did not carry any live cruise missiles, was seen heading west on the M4 in the direction of Swindon.

The convoy came out at 12.30am in what one of the women described as "a rush that looked like a steam engine."

From witnesses' reports it was clear that it was not a full-scale operational deployment. That would involve at least 20 vehicles, including four transporter-erector-launchers (TELs) and two control vehicles, which are more than 55ft long and weigh about 35 tons.

Peace campers had reported what appeared to have been training exercises with cruise

missile vehicles inside the base over the past few days. But the were unprepared for what was a carefully-organized plan to take a convoy out.

Immediately before the convoy left from the "blue gate" at the north of the base, police surrounded the peace women.

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Peace campers had reported what appeared to have been training exercises with cruise

only that it involved about a dozen vehicles, including police escorts. From sightings by peace campaigners and motorists it appeared to have been limited to one TEL, one control vehicle, four or five other smaller vehicles similar to Land Rovers and police cars and motor cycles.

The police stopped and questioned motorists on the access road leading from Newbury to the M4 before the convoy arrived.

It went from the base into Newbury, turning right on to the A34 ring road round the town and on to the access road leading to junction 13 of the M4.

It then turned left and was spotted at the Membury service station, 15 miles west of Newbury, and again south of Swindon.

## Study cause of conflict not peace Duke says

From Our Correspondent  
Edinburgh

The hundreds of millions of people caught up in war, terrorism and other violence can take little comfort from talk of peace, the Duke of Edinburgh said yesterday in his first lecture as chancellor of Edinburgh University.

It is not peace that needs to be studied but the reasons for conflict, he said.

Church leaders of all denominations, statesmen and humanitarians all raised their voices for peace but that, he said, was rather like "being against sin".

The men who ordered the fighting and killing pay not the slightest attention. Even the so-called "peace movement" had been exploited for "partisan advantage".

He said that violence in Northern Ireland, the war in the Lebanon and soccer hooliganism all had one thing in common - the tribal factor.

He described the tribal factor as the willingness of individuals to form themselves into power groups and to become so emotionally committed as to believe that reaching the group objective or defending a position justified any means however unpleasant or violent.

On football violence, he said that the rules must be strictly observed and there must be an accepted code of behaviour, "something capable of overriding the influence of irrational emotions."

## Communist Party purge unlikely

The Communist Party of Great Britain is expected today to draw back from a threatened purge against party members in the People's Press Printing Society, the cooperative which owns Britain's only Communist daily newspaper, the *Morning Star*.

Party leaders will be considering over the weekend disciplinary action to take against the society's management committee which defied an executive demand for the replacement of the editor and deputy editor of the *Morning Star*.

The executive has condemned the committee's "repudiation of the special relationship between the party and the paper".

The dispute is the result of a growing split between the hard-line relatively pro-Soviet faction on the newspaper, and the more liberal Eurocommunists.

Although the leadership has considered expelling prominent party members for their defiance, it seems to be preparing a tactical withdrawal.

## Thatcher's 'naive' view of crime

By Robin Young

A researcher suggested yesterday that Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the Prince of Wales had both taken a naive view of the relationship between crime and unemployment, a subject on which he and another academic wrote a study.

Dr Roy Carr-Hill, of York University, and Professor Nicholas Stern, of Warwick University, did the research funded by the Social Science Research Council.

The study was published in January, 1983, and republished in the April, 1983 issue of the journal, *Police*.

Mrs Thatcher quoted the study as saying: "There is no significant association between the increases in recorded crime and the increase in unemployment."

She used it to answer the Prince's claim that unemployment was "a particular cause" of increased attacks on the elderly.

Professor Stern said yesterday: "We did not say that unemployment does not cause crime. What we said was that those who claimed it did had not proved the case."

"We argued that we did not know what relationship there was, and that we did not think that anybody else could know either."

The order, made on Thursday, also banned publication of the tapes.

Mr Richard Hartley, QC, representing Mr and Mrs Francombe, in the Court of Appeal yesterday, accused the *Daily Mirror* of engaging in "sewer-like" activity, "making use of material, knowing it had been stolen by a crook."

If the tapes indicated that Mr Francombe was guilty of criminal offence they should be handed to the police. If they indicated he had broken Jockey Club rules they should go to the Jockey Club, he said.

Overseas selling prices are: £50; Canada \$100; USA \$100; Australia \$100; New Zealand \$100; South Africa \$100; India \$100; Pakistan \$100; Bangladesh \$100; Sri Lanka \$100; Ceylon \$100; Malaya \$100; Singapore \$100; Hong Kong \$100; Taiwan \$100; Korea \$100; Japan \$100; Philippines \$100; Thailand \$100; Malaysia \$100; Brunei \$100; Indonesia \$100; Vietnam \$100; Laos \$100; Cambodia \$100; Myanmar \$100; Nepal \$100; Bhutan \$100; Tibet \$100; Mongolia \$100; North Korea \$100; South Korea \$100; China \$100; USSR \$100; Poland \$100; Czech Republic \$100; Slovakia \$100; Hungary \$100; Romania \$100; Bulgaria \$100; Yugoslavia \$100; Albania \$100; Greece \$100; Turkey \$100; Israel \$100; Jordan \$100; Syria \$100; Lebanon \$100; Iraq \$100; Kuwait \$100; Saudi Arabia \$100; Oman \$100; United Arab Emirates \$100; Qatar \$100; Bahrain \$100; Brunei \$100; Malaysia \$100; Singapore \$100; Hong Kong \$100; Taiwan \$100; Korea \$100; Japan \$100; Philippines \$100; Thailand \$100; 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## Home Office urged to dispel doubts about breath-test intoximeter

By Richard Evans

The Government faced renewed demands last night to change Britain's driving laws after more criticism of the controversial intoximeter breath-test machine.

Motoring organizations, police surgeons and magistrates said that the Home Office should quell long-standing fears about the electronic device's reliability by allowing all drivers who judges to be over the limit the automatic right to a blood or urine test.

This follows a report in yesterday's *Daily Express* which claims that the Lion Intoximeter 3000, introduced into police stations throughout England and Wales last May, is prone to error and has a high failure rate.

But Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, said yesterday: "So far we have no reason to believe anyone has been wrongly convicted because of any inaccuracy in the machine."

About 650 Lion intoximeters are in use and they are subjected to random tests to check their accuracy.

Under the existing law only drivers found by the machine to be up to 15 microgrammes over

the legal alcohol limit of 35 microgrammes per 100 millilitres of air have the right to a blood or urine test.

Mr Hurd said: "No criticism that I have seen could possibly lead to the conclusion that anyone over 30 on the machine is still innocent."

Automatic blood and urine tests would be "going back to a system which created a great deal of delay and disagreeable experiences unnecessarily for a lot of innocent people", he said.

but Mr Olaf Lambert, director-general of the Automobile Association, said that the Home Secretary must dispel doubts about machine or restore the right of drivers to have a blood test.

Dr Hugh de la Haye, secretary of the Association of Police Surgeons, said: "I think a lot of the criticisms of the machine would be silenced if drivers had the option to provide a blood sample."

"In the event of a person being found over the limit there should be a considerable fee paid. That would cut out frivolous demands for a blood test."

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the Magistrates' Association, said that "in general terms" it was satisfied with the machine but "we are aware of a number of specific instances where magistrates have found that the machine has not performed as it should."

The option to have a blood or urine test would reassure drivers and deal with residual doubt. "At the moment it must be accepted, we don't know in a situation which gives rise to doubt whether the machine is working properly or not", he said.

After Hampshire police announced yesterday that they will not appeal against a decision by Basingstoke magistrates to dismiss a drink-driving charge involving the intoximeter against a trombone player.

Mr Robert Todd, of Head Lane, Farnham, Surrey, claimed that the spirit of camphor he had applied to his lips while playing his instrument had given an over-high reading on the intoximeter.

A police spokesman said that there would be no appeal because the decision had been based on evidence and not on a point of law.

## Price war over 'laser' discs

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

The high street price war on audio compact discs, which produce high-quality music extracted by laser, grew fiercer yesterday. Philips, the original designer of the technology, cut its prices by 12.5 per cent, the second reduction announced by the company since the products were launched a year ago. The reductions are to be accompanied by a campaign offering purchasers six months' free credit.

It is the latest marketing move by a compact disc manufacturer trying to establish a foothold in the hi-fi market and encourage purchases. Philips claims about 25 per cent of the European market and predicts a world market of 1.2 million by the end of the year. Only 10,000 players had been sold, largely by Sony, Philips and Marantz. The Christmas boom had been expected to double the sales. The latest

estimates from Polygram on all manufacturers' sales of players are 14,000 in Britain, 40,000 in West Germany, 22,000 in France and 16,000 in The Netherlands.

After Christmas, the Japanese electronics company Sony, which had jointly developed the disc with Philips, cut the price of its players by £90 to £549 at the time they were launched. The cheapest Philips model is now just under £350.

## Breeding wins in the beef test

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Traditional beef produced from purpose-bred herds, rather than as a by-product of the dairy industry, is significantly more popular with consumers, according to a survey published yesterday by the Meat and Livestock Commission.

Although commission officials were delighted at having refuted scientists who claimed that breed was unimportant and that quality depended on the handling of animals and the treatment of carcasses, they were nevertheless reluctant to denigrate Friesian and Holstein cattle.

In the survey samples of topside, sirloin steak, braising, and stewing beef were tested by 504 families. Comparisons were made between samples from Aberdeen-Angus cross heifers from Scottish abattoirs, and from Friesian-Holstein steers from abattoirs in England, which were considered of such poor quality that they failed to qualify for EEC beef subsidies.

The cross-beefers were given a 62 per cent favourable rating for tenderness, 35 per cent for

juiciness, 51 per cent for flavour and 67.5 per cent for general acceptability. The steers were given respectively: 54, 27, 42, and 58 per cent.

### Pig epidemic costs £15.5m

The cost of eradicating the present epidemic of Aujeszky's disease in Britain's pig herds has soared far above the Government's estimates, with no sign that it has been brought under control.

Compensation payments already total £15.5m, compared with an estimate, when the slaughter programme was initiated a year ago, of £9m, which included aid for restocking.

Nearly 400,000 pigs have been slaughtered in 470 herds, twice as many as originally envisaged. The short, sharp programme forecast by the Ministry of Agriculture, confined mainly to Humberside and East Anglia, has been confounded by random outbreaks in Wales, Cheshire and Cornwall.

## Changes in cancer treatment

By Rupert Morris

Significant developments in cancer treatment will be announced later this month after the opening of a laboratory complex at Aston University, Birmingham.

New screening systems and molecules are being developed at Aston by the Cancer Research Campaign, with the aim of finding agents which can reform malignant cells rather than destroy them.

The campaign's chemotherapy research group, headed by Professor Malcolm Stanes, has developed two drugs, N-Methylformamide and Azolastone, which offer potentially different approaches for dealing with malignant cancer cells.

### Sting divorce

Frances Tomelty, the actress, was granted a decree nisi in London yesterday from Gordon Sumner, better known as Sting, leader of the Police music group.

### Killer caught

Richard Coubrough, a prisoner described as "very dangerous", was recaptured in Kilmarnock, Strathclyde, yesterday, 16 hours after escaping from an escort at Motherwell. Coubrough, aged 50, has served 30 years of a life sentence for murder.

### Tunnel rescue

A miner aged 25 was rescued yesterday after being badly injured more than a mile from the surface. Mr Michael Coyne, whose condition was said to be stable, had been building a tunnel in Berkshire.

### Paintings found

Police have recovered 12 stolen paintings valued at almost £250,000 from a house in Dover. The paintings were stolen from Northiam, near Rye, East Sussex, on Christmas Eve, 1981.

### Threat to birds

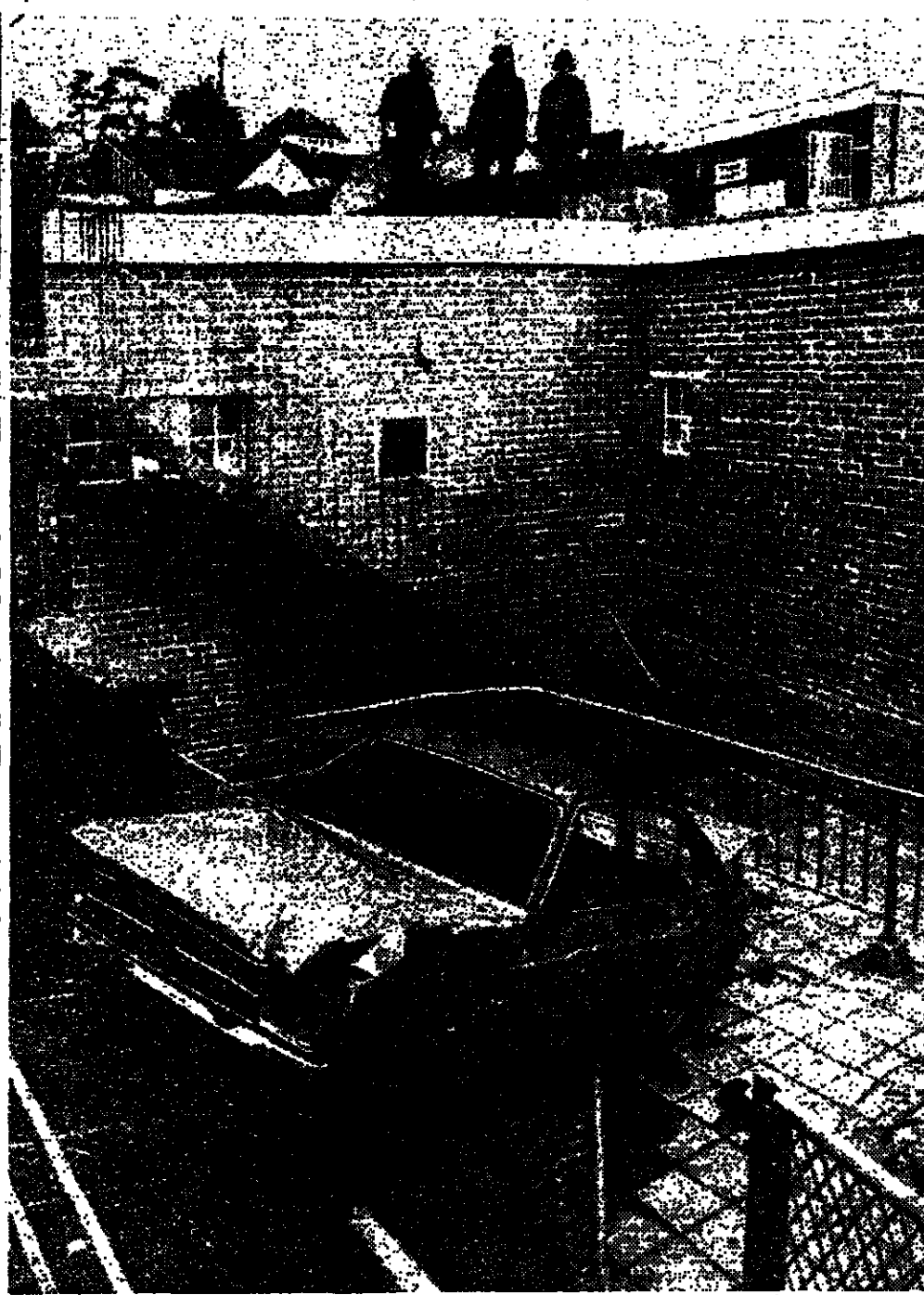
A bird club is threatening to alert the lawyers of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to protect two rare peregrine falcons nesting in a power station chimney due for demolition at Fleetwood, Lancashire.

### Lawyer expelled

Mr Jai Narain Mathur has been disbarred and expelled from Gray's Inn for professional misconduct, the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar announced yesterday. He had been convicted of making a false statement to the Inland Revenue with intent to defraud.

### Women students

In October 40 per cent of the new intake of undergraduates at Oxford University will be women, the highest proportion in the university's history. A total of 2,853 applicants have been given places.



Flying finish: Mrs Janet Hill and her bright red Ford Escort landed on the roof of Lloyds Bank after plunging 25ft from a supermarket's rooftop car park. The accident happened when Mrs Hill, aged 64, was leaving the car park in Dawlish, Devon. Mr John Way, who was working on scaffolding

near the bank, said: "I heard a noise and the next thing I knew there was this car flying through the air." Mrs Hill was taken to Dawlish Hospital where she was treated for shock and a minor injury to her hand. She later returned to her house in Kingsdown Crescent, Dawlish.

## 'Burn-out' diagnosis on hard-pressed doctors in NHS

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Doctors in the National Health Service, faced with growing patient demands and too few resources to meet their need, are suffering from "burn-out", according to a consultant psychiatrist.

A survey of 156 hospital and family doctors in Aberdeen has shown that 83 per cent said they suffered periods of physical, emotional, or intellectual exhaustion, 68 per cent found their work stressful, almost half said they had suffered appreciable periods of boredom, frustration and disenchantment with their work, and 8 per cent said that amounted to clinical depression.

Dr James Morrice, a consultant psychiatrist at the Ross Clinic in Aberdeen, says in the Bulletin of the Royal College of Psychiatrists that sufferers from burn-out describe loss of energy and interest and a growing feeling of inability to cope.

Patient demands grow burdensome, personal motivation drops, and while the term may sound dramatic, he says, "it is not difficult to imagine the damage or even danger that may follow the burn-out of a surgeon".

In the survey, he says, a large number of the 84 general

practitioners, 72 senior hospital doctors and 11 psychiatrists made "heartfelt comments" expressing "frustration that patients' demands exceeded their needs, and their needs exceeded available resources".

Burn-out, he suggests, results from people entering professions such as medicine and nursing with high ideals, but, perhaps, unrealistic expectations.

After suffering the stress of being a medical student and young doctor, with overwork, daily dealing with suffering and death, and fear of making errors, doctors may become disenchanted later in life.

"Recent social and economic conditions, such as high unemployment levels and cutbacks, have tended to increase occupational stress", he says.

Doctors' career structures are more rigid, government and bureaucratic intrusion is increasing, and the caring professions "no longer feel so privileged or special".

"Patients and clients seem more demanding, less grateful, and unwilling to accept responsibility for themselves".

Bulletin of Royal College of Psychiatrists (Vol 8, No 3, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

## 'Tar' on beaches probably from Sellafield

A tar-like substance, thought to originate from the Sellafield nuclear plant, has been washed up on beaches. Mr John MacGregor, Minister of State for Agriculture, said in a written Commons reply yesterday.

But the material, found during monitoring checks after November's discharge from Sellafield, did not represent a "significant radiation dose hazard", although he said the public should avoid unnecessary use of the beaches.

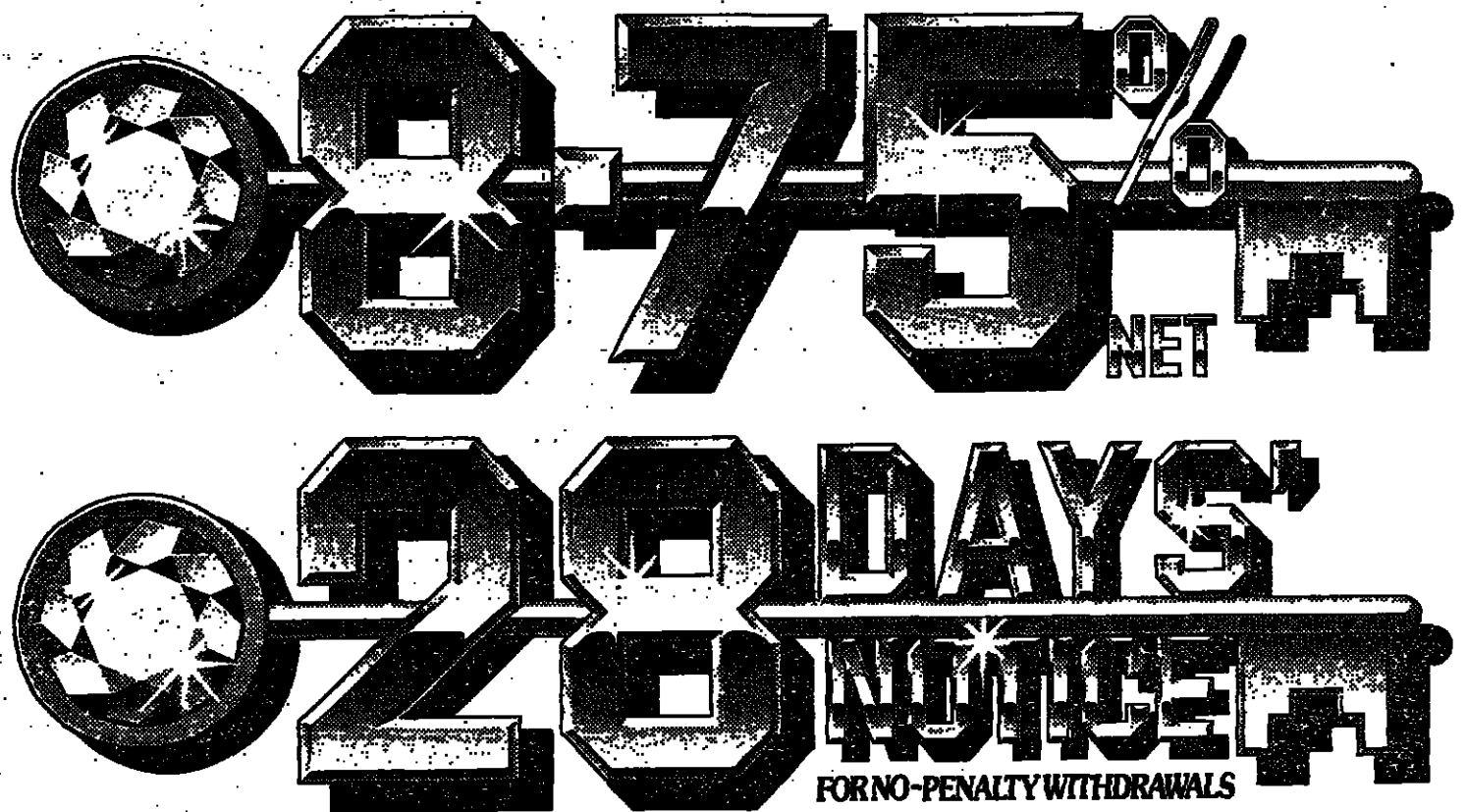
## Police search for man extends abroad

A police search for a man after the deaths of a couple found shot in a caravan spread to the Continent and Canada yesterday.

A magistrate in West Cornwall has granted the police a warrant for the arrest of Walter Scott Challoner, aged 61, who is missing from his bungalow on The Lizard peninsula.

The warrant relates to the killing of Rasalind Richards, aged 18, at Manaccan, Cornwall.

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## Wide support given to plan for new Norfolk Broads statutory body

By John Young

Legislation to establish a new statutory authority for the Norfolk Broads, with powers to control development, agriculture, navigation, and pollution, is called for by the Countryside Commission in a report published yesterday.

The Commission examined three possible options: continuation of the present Broads Authority with powers effectively limited to those of its constituent county and district councils; a new national park and a statutory authority with national status, guaranteed finance and powers to attend to the special needs of the area.

The first option received little support, except from the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Commissioners and the Anglian Water Authority. The second received hardly any support, not even from the Council for National Parks.

However, the possibility of a new authority was backed by all the local councils, most conservation and recreation groups, and the National Farmers' Union. The commission says it is confident that a consensus has developed.

The report pays tribute to the "impressive record" of the present authority, but expresses disappointment that significant improvements in water quality have not been achieved since it was established in 1978.

It also criticizes the lack of any integrated management of land and water-based recreation, and expresses concern at the continuing loss of traditional grazing marsh.

The report adds: "Improving water quality is fundamental to the future of the Broads." Despite good cooperation between the present authority and Anglian Water, continuing high phosphate levels have caused the death of water plants and animal life, and a resulting loss in nature conservation.

Results of a joint experimental scheme have been disappointing, the report says, and the water authority has indicated that, at times of constrained expenditure, it would be reluctant to commit substantial extra resources to the Broads without a confident expectation of success.

The commission believes that the target should be to restore the Broads and rivers over the next decade to a state conducive to the reestablishment of aquatic plant life. It says that a joint action programme should be agreed.

The report criticizes the lack of cooperation between the authority and the Port and Haven Commissioners, to the extent that the former was not even asked to comment on the commissioners' dredging programme.

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## School meals staff pay challenge upheld

The school meals staff of Birmingham were granted leave in the High Court yesterday to challenge the city council's ultimatum to take a pay cut or face dismissal.

Mr Justice Glidewell said they had an arguable case, at least on some of the points raised on their behalf by their union, the National Union of Public Employees.

The union which has 5,500 school meals staff among its members employed by the city council, was granted an order preventing the authority from enforcing its ultimatum before the court rules on the case.

The judge said he could not prevent the women from accepting the council's offer of new conditions of employment, involving a one-off payment and a lower rate of pay for the future. However, he thought that if the union succeeded in its action the council could do nothing but put everybody back on the present terms of employment.

The judge said the case should be heard as quickly as possible. Birmingham City Council was not represented at yesterday's hearing.

Mr John Macdonald, QC, for the union, had told the judge that on March 1 the council's chief education officer wrote to all manual workers in the school meals service telling them it had been decided that new conditions of service would operate from June 2 and giving notice that present contracts of employment would be terminated on June 1.

Mr Macdonald said: "The local authority, without authority, and without authority, has also not considered how it would discharge its duty under the Education Act, 1980, to provide meals on June 1 if the women refused to accept the new conditions of service and were dismissed."



Big Chief Pierre: Mr Pierre Trudeau (right), sporting an Indian hat from British Columbia which was presented to him at a recent conference in Ottawa on Aboriginal rights. With the Canadian Prime Minister is Mr Mark MacGuigan, the Justice Minister.

Trevor Fishlock in Canada

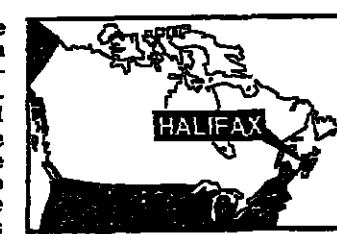
## Where devotion to the royals extends to off-the-peg dukes

There is no political significance to the fact that 51 of the seats in the Nova Scotia Parliament are green and one is white. It is simply that Big Donald MacLeod, member for Cape Breton West, is a 20-stone lumberman and has broken two of the green chairs. The more substantial white chair enables big Donald to remain a sitting member.

Nova Scotia has history to lean on, and the contrast between the Atlantic province and the rest of the country is considerable. There was an assembly here in 1758 and the Parliament building dates from 1819, Canada's oldest seat of government. The province was one of four colonies which founded the Dominion of Canada in 1867.

Charles Dickens, who was here in 1842, aptly described the ceremonial opening of Parliament as like looking at Westminster through the wrong end of a telescope. Like all of Canada's 10 provincial parliaments, it has drawn much from Westminster, and the kit includes a Sergeant-at-Arms in morning dress, a Speaker in a top hat, and a couple of mace-bearers.

And like all the other provinces Nova Scotia has the sort of self-government that devolutionists in Scotland and Wales would envy. The provinces' premiers, cabinets and separate civil services have wide-ranging responsibility for education, health care, welfare, development and taxation.



Income in Nova Scotia is below the national average, and unemployment is about 13 per cent. The forest industry is in bad shape after many years of cutting without replanting and because of widespread damage done by the spruce budworm. Elsewhere in Canada the forests have been sprayed to control this pest, but Nova Scotia's ecology-conscious Government has forbidden spraying.

For all its problems, Nova Scotia did not suffer too badly in the recession. It has a diversified base of fishing, agriculture and coal mining, and the growth of offshore exploration is stimulating activity and optimism in a province that was traditionally looked to the sea for its living. Nova Scotians are too canny to bank on any bonanza, but there is a feeling that the future is promising. Seven rigs are at work and 200 oil-related companies have been established in the province in the past few years.

Nova Scotia is proud of its British links and is devoted to the Royal Family, bookshops have generous supplies of books about all its members and a visit by even a minor royal is a great event. When the province tried and failed to get a royal to open one of its major events, some people suggested a local hero for the job. But the loyal Nova Scotians sent for — and got — off-the-peg, Duke of Edinburgh's son, Prince Charles, and his wife, Lady Diana, to the House of Lords.

## Irish dairy herd was Welsh

By Richard Ford

A television advertising campaign promoting Irish dairy products in Britain has denied the pride of the Irish Republic's Friesian dairy herd.

The board of the Milk Marketing Board admitted that the green pastures and distinctive black and white cows in the film are on a farm at Llanrhayr, near Welshpool, Powys.

The cows had been sired by an English bull, and all their milk was making butter for a British company.

The only consolation, according to the board's public relations executive, Mr Pat McDonagh, is that the cows were in Wales and therefore Celtic and they received no fees for appearing in a scene supposed to depict "the lush green fields of Ireland".

The board's London subsidiary used the advertising agency, Benton and Bowles, and Mr McDonagh said the production company had decided not to travel to the republic.

Mr McDonagh said: "We have used a lot of pastoral scenes and the occasional herd of cows to promote our goods, but always in Ireland. Although there have been no complaints from anyone about filming in Wales, it will not happen again."

A spokesman for Britain's Milk Marketing Board said: "We are delighted that the Irish have an eye for a good animal. English-bred on a Welsh farm."

## Learning to live with minefields

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Areas of countryside around Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands, which have been closed to the public since 1982 because of areas of mines, are gradually being reopened.

This is happening although mine clearance ceased more than a year ago, and although there are still at least 25,000 mines buried in 130 to 140 minefields. Some estimates put the number of mines much higher.

It has become possible to give the public access because knowledge of the size and location of minefields has been refined, and because battle debris on the ground has been cleared.

Immediately after the conflict

with Argentina large areas of land known to contain minefields were closed, even though a relatively small part of the minefields may have been mined. Many of the minefields are small, perhaps 100 yards by 300 yards, and those areas remain closed and fenced off, while land around them is reopened.

The latest minefield maps show that about 20 kilometres within about 10 miles of Stanley have been reopened recently.

There still remain, however, many dangerous areas. Less than two miles south of the town there is an area of about 10 square kilometres where mines are believed to have been strewn at random by the

Argentinians. The area contains sheep which have not been shorn for two years because it is impossible to reach them.

The thirty to forty minefields in the more remote areas, around Darwin and Goose Green, Fox Bay and Port Howard, have yet to be tackled.

The difficulty is that the Argentinians used several kinds of mine, including two types which are made of plastic and contain little or no metal and cannot be reliably detected.

The Army has said it will not resume mine clearance until reliable method of detecting those mines has been found.

An officer said: "We are waiting for the technology to catch up with these mines."

Pitman, of Vauxhall Road, Gloucester, admitted attempting to administer poison to his wife with intent to injure, aggravate, or annoy her. Judge Braithwaite put him on probation for two years. The court was told that Mrs Pitman had now filed a divorce petition.

## Plea for curbs on therapists' advertisements

By Robin Young

The Advertising Standards Authority is to consider demands that it should tighten controls on advertisements from therapists who quote strings of mysterious initials after their names.

The College of Health, whose chairman is Lord Young of Darlington, founder of the Consumers' Association, has told the authority that the advertisements, which fill columns of classified advertising in health magazines, are potentially misleading.

Lord Young quotes initials given as though they were professional qualifications

## Man tried to poison wife in attempt to see her

From Our Correspondent, Gloucester

A man tried to poison his estranged wife by putting rust remover in her tea so as to be able to visit her while she was ill. Gloucester Crown Court was told yesterday.

The court was told that Philip Pitman, aged 24, decided on action a month after his wife Juliet, aged 19, left him.

Mr Thomas Corrie, for the prosecution, said that Pitman believed his wife's father was preventing him from seeing or talking to her. So he went to her parents' home in Newent, Gloucestershire, where was staying, and put the oxalic acid

in the sugar, kettle, and milk. He later told the police: "I wanted to make her sick for a few days so I could visit her."

The attempt failed because her parents realized there was something wrong when they saw the water in the kettle foaming.

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## Reagan appoints panel to monitor Unesco

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The United States has chosen 15 people to sit on a panel which will monitor the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization throughout 1984.

It will be on their recommendation on December 1 that Washington will decide whether to rescind its decision to leave the organization at the end of the year.

But Mr Gregory Newell, assistant Secretary of State, made clear in London that only a fundamental change in Unesco would persuade the Administration to change its mind.

The Administration announced its decision last December, in protest against what it

said was the inefficient use of Unesco's \$374m (£250m) budget and its domination by Eastern bloc countries.

He said it was "staggering" that the organization was this year spending \$1m on "peace and disarmament", which was not its responsibility, and less than \$60,000 on teaching refugees, the world how to read and write.

Mr Newell, who has been in London for consultations at the Foreign Office and with other parties, said the decision was taken after a review carried out on President Reagan's orders of all 96 multilateral organizations to which the United States belonged.

## Italian police ordered to find bank chief

From John Earle, Rome

The Italian Parliament's commission of inquiry into the banned P2 Masonic lodge has instructed the carabinieri to find Signor Luigi Mennini, chief lay executive of the Vatican Bank, and bring him before its next hearing on Tuesday.

Signor Mennini, who ignored previous summonses to appear for questioning, is reported to have taken refuge in the Vatican. However, the carabinieri will be unable to reach him there as their authority extends only over Italian territory.

Signor Mennini is understood to have left his home for the safety of the Vatican alongside Archbishop Paul Marcinkus and Signor Perlegrino de Strobel, respectively chairman and chief accountant of the bank, the Institute for Religious Works.

A Milan magistrate opened investigation into their activities after the collapse of the late Roberto Calvi's Banco Ambrosiano in 1982.

Signor Calvi was a member of the P2 lodge. The use made of the Ambrosiano group's facilities by P2 members is one of the subjects being looked into by the parliamentary commission.

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The Vatican Bank was

closely involved with Signor Calvi, and the Italian Government at the time claimed that it owed nearly \$1.3 billion (£900m) to Ambrosiano group creditors.

An agreement is reported to have been negotiated whereby the Vatican Bank will pay \$250m as part of a wider settlement with Ambrosiano creditors. Formal signature of the settlement map, according to Italian sources, will still require several weeks, as the provisions have to be harmonized with the legislation of various countries.

figures also show that every area of Spain and Portugal is well below the Community average, which underlines the cost of enlargement of the Community.

The report emphasizes that it is not possible to change industrial patterns by isolated effort, rather, any improvement can only be achieved by an overall strategy, such as could be drawn up by the Community as a whole.

The report also says there is a danger that new technology, which is seen as a way of improving the EEC's economy, will develop mostly in existing urban areas which are already over the wealthier areas. It urges that steps are taken to see that it is developed in the remotest and less prosperous regions of the community.

## PARLIAMENT March 9 1984

## Dr Owen tells Howe: Go to Moscow soon

Foreign affairs

The Government had started the paperwork to create the conditions for better relations with the Soviet Union, Mr Raymond Whitely, Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in the Commons. This would, he stated, require a long haul and a substantial contribution in substance as well as goodwill from the Soviet Union. The policy was by no means a seven day wonder.

Over recent months ministers had made a series of public statements pointing in the direction to move, and indicating the Government's readiness to grasp every opportunity for dialogue with the Soviet Union. The policy was by no means a seven day wonder.

He was replying to a debate upon a motion, moved by Mr William Walker (Tayside, North, C) calling on the Government to work on a realistic and long-term basis for the reduction of tensions between East and West. Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP and a former Foreign Secretary, when he spoke, considered the way was open for an early visit by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, to Moscow before the summer was out.

Mr Walker said it was no wonder that the Russians had doubts and fears about signing agreements which one considered Hitler's breaking of Russia's non aggression pact with Germany. But the West must continue its two policy of being prepared to talk and to support that with a determination to defend its interests.

The bomb (he said) has become the weapon of peace. The deterrent continues to work.

Dr Owen, (Plymouth, Devonport), said that while he had treasured criticism of the Government's conduct of relations with the Soviet Union over the last few years, he welcomed the change of tone which seemed to be part of the settled view of the Government.

Now that megaphone diplomacy and personal abuse was a thing of the past, what should be Britain's objectives? Soviet foreign policy was immensely slow moving so there could only be progress in a cautious, careful way. From the recent speech of Mr Chernenko, a few areas where Britain could act on its own could be seen.

One such area was the recent decision to deploy there was a 20 nuclear weapons years contact had been abysmally low. The last Foreign Secretary to have serious discussions with the Soviet Union was himself in 1971. The way was open for an early visit by the Foreign Secretary to Moscow, he hoped before the summer was out.

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The bomb (he said) has become the weapon of peace. The deterrent continues to work.

What Europe had failed to understand was that it was fundamentally in her interests that the United States and Soviet Union had confidence in their strategic deterrence. The basic negotiating relationship was a strategic one.

He hoped, Nato, whether it declared it or not, would effectively impose a freeze on future development of cruise and Pershing missiles. Having taken the political decision to deploy there was no military reason to increase the 16 cruise missiles in Greenham Common, the 18 Pershing missiles in West Germany and the 16 being installed in Italy at least until 1985. It would be wise not to exacerbate relations by further deployment.

We cannot negotiate soundly with the Soviet Union (he went on) unless we are sure of our own security and the strength and viability of Nato.

Rough parity was sufficient. The appalling danger of not beginning to wind down the levels of nuclear armaments was so great it justified taking some marginal calculated risks in terms of verification.

Mr Whitely, under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said there was a tendency to suggest that the desire on the part of the Government to improve relations with the Soviet Union was a recent phenomenon but that it was not true. It had consistently looked for good relations with the Soviet Union and would continue to do so.

Since 1977 the actions which had set back progress towards good relations had not been actions inspired by the West, they had been

actions by the Soviet Union. There had been an improvement in the atmosphere and that must be a matter for satisfaction by both sides.

He said the Prime Minister made clear to Mr Chernenko that she hoped that their own meeting would lead to other contacts between governments.

We are exploring with the Russians the possibility of a range of other exchanges. We shall hope to welcome Soviet ministers here over the next few days, including those with a specific interest in trade. It is essential the build-up should be gradual and that the channel of negotiation should be opened between the two governments.

We cannot fall into the trap of overestimating contacts of this nature can achieve nor the time which would be needed to establish the proper confidence which should exist between the nations of East and West.

He said since the accession to the leadership of Mr Chernenko there had so far been no indication of any change in the substantive Soviet position on major issues.

We have the said made a start. We intend to pursue a consistent approach over a long period. We are not recommending the abandonment of our own principles or that we sweep the past under the carpet which remain between us and the Soviet Union under the carpet. We shall not achieve the understanding which is necessary by failing to say what we think or by failing to stand by what we say.

The debate was adjourned.

## Thatcher spells out the Government's objectives

The Government will press on with its programme regardless of criticism and will not be swayed of course, according to Mr Thatcher.

In Commons written reply, she defined the objectives for the remainder of this Parliament.

The reply on Thursday followed an equally forthright account of the Government's past achievements and future policies set out on Wednesday by Lord Whitelaw, leader of the Lords and Mr Thatcher's second-in-command.

The full text of Mrs Thatcher's reply to Mr Edward Taylor (Conservative, Southend East), was:

At home, we shall build on the success of our economic policies. We shall continue to work for sound money, for lower inflation, for lower government borrowing and lower interest rates; we shall pursue value for money in public services. We shall reduce regulation and government control over industry and individuals. We shall continue to foster the spirit of enterprise and to encourage pay negotiations to take full account of competitiveness, and so to preserve and create jobs. We shall continue to limit the burden of public expenditure and taxation.

We shall build on the progress which our past legislation has made towards a fairer balance of power between management and unions. We shall reduce public and private monopolies. We shall continue to transfer industries from the public to the private sector where they will be subject to competition and the

disciplines of the market. We shall maintain the right of council tenants to buy their houses and encourage local authorities to sell voluntarily. We shall protect householders and businesses from excessive rent demands. We shall abolish unnecessary local bureaucracies.

We shall protect the poor and those in most need of help, honouring our pledges on benefits. We shall complete our consultation on the reform of occupational pensions, leading to legislation, and will carry through the inquiry into the long-term pension proposals. We shall improve the management of the NHS to provide a better service to the patients and better value for the taxpayer.

We shall vigorously uphold the rule of law and fight crime. We shall give parents more choice and more power in schools and continue our drive for better standards of education.

We shall improve our safeguards against all types of pollution. We shall extend the network of motorways and build more bypasses for towns and villages which suffer heavy traffic.

Aboard, we shall promote free and fair trade between nations. Within the European Community we shall work to achieve an early agreement on a fair and disciplined financial system and to develop forward-looking and effective Community policies in other areas, and lead the Community to play a wider role in the world. We shall maintain the effectiveness of our defences, both nuclear and conventional, in particular through cooperation with our NATO allies. We shall negotiate for the mutual reduction of armaments, not from weakness but from strength. We shall stand up for British integrity throughout the world. We seek peace with freedom and justice.

The poor are getting poorer, and the rich richer, according to the latest report on the social and economic situation in the EEC. It shows that Northern Ireland is running southern Italy a close second for being worst off in the Community, while the six wealthiest areas are all in West Germany.

Over the last 10 years, regional disparities in production and productivity have not lessened but remained very substantial," the report says. A map shows that all of Britain, other than London and the South-east and Scotland, has a below average level of wealth. Statistics of this sort can only help Mrs Margaret Thatcher in her argument over how much money Britain should contribute to the EEC budget, the



## Salvador strikers risk jail or conscription in fight for higher wages

From John Carlin, San Salvador

A wave of strikes, something not seen in the past four years of civil war, is hitting El Salvador. And, according to precedent, the Army is taking action.

The number of strikes is likely to grow in the next week which will further damage the prestige of the March 25 elections - so important for the US-backed authorities as a symbol of the Salvadoran people's rejection of revolution as a means to change.

So far, 12,000 people have walked out for higher wages - a large number by El Salvador standards where strikes, when they happen, tend to end in imprisonment, or worse, for union leaders.

Last week, for example, soldiers dragged away four striking workers at the government-owned water company. Instead of being imprisoned, the men suffered what their companions described as a more cruel fate: forced recruitment into the Army.

On Thursday, about 60 of the feared Treasury Police, all

carrying automatic rifles, took over the national headquarters, just outside San Salvador, of another government-run body, the Food Regulating Institute. About 400 workers stood outside the plant, listening in terror to what they later described as a threatening, abusive admonition from the captain in command.

"What do you think you are doing if you don't go back to work then go up to Morazan (north-east El Salvador) and join up with the guerrillas," the captain said. The strikers later insisted: "We aren't guerrillas, we're just simple workers being paid as if we were slaves."

The workers duly filed back to their jobs inside, several whispering as they went into the plant that their struggle would continue - threats or no threats. The same scene was repeated in at least half a dozen branches of the food institute in different parts of El Salvador, according to union officials.

The workers have not received a wage rise for four years in a country with 20 per cent inflation. A union with more than 30,000 members, the Salvadoran Workers Central, has called a strike for next Monday. Labour sources say even larger strikes are in the pipeline.

Government officials and the American Embassy believe the strikes are organized by left-wing guerrillas who have been making their presence felt recently, with bomb attacks in the capital for the first time in nearly two years.

Whether rebels are behind the labour unrest remains in doubt, but what is clear is that growing antagonism between workers and the Army can only benefit the guerrillas in their struggle against the regime.

● American aid: The Deputy Secretary of State for defence, Mr William Taft, says the Salvadoran Army needs additional US military aid to repel a threat to the security of the elections (AP reports).



Rough day: Police arrest Chilean protesters during an International Women's Day demonstration in Santiago.

## Mauroy greeted by Spanish outrage at Biscay shooting

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Emperor Charles V imprisoned King Francis I of France after the Battle of Pavia in the sixteenth century.

Only Professor Enrique Tierno, the Mayor of Madrid, was at the airport to greet M Mauroy who is officially in the capital as Mayor of Lille for an international gathering of representatives body grouping twinned cities. The French and Spanish Prime Ministers will meet today to try to resolve the dispute.

"Frenchmen, assassins," the crowd shouted during a demonstration which yesterday closed the Basque port where the two ships were based. Fishermen urged Madrid to reduce all fish imports from EEC countries. One of the six injured a Portuguese, has had a leg amputated in a Brest hospital.

Señor González and M Mauroy must decide how to avoid future incidents, particularly at a time when Spain hopes to negotiate EEC entry terms. Spain signed a fishing limitation agreement with the EEC which France maintains Madrid must enforce.

M Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, arrived here yesterday and walked into a storm of Spanish protests over Wednesday's confrontation between French naval patrol and two Basque fishing boats in the Bay of Biscay which left six crew injured.

The dispute is by no means settled. Madrid has rejected the French explanation and French officials say they might repeat their tactics if Spanish vessels persist in fishing in Community waters without EEC licences.

M Mauroy, whose visit was described as totally inappropriate by Señor Manuel Fraga, the leader of the opposition, refused to comment when he arrived at Madrid airport, except to indicate that he would first meet Señor Felipe González, his Spanish counterpart. Earlier, Señor González described the incident as a blow to relations between the countries.

Rekindling Spanish memories of centuries of antagonism with France, ABC, the Conservative Madrid daily, suggested yesterday that Mr Mauroy should stay in the Madrid tower where

## Dissident writer arrested in Poland

From Our Correspondent Warsaw

A pre-Solidarity dissident writer, Mr Marek Nowakowski, has been arrested on the orders of the Warsaw Military Prosecutor's Office.

The Warsaw author is being investigated on charges of "cooperation with persons who represent Western organizations conducting activity harmful to the interests of the Polish state", the Polish press agency said.

Mr Nowakowski, aged 49, has been repeatedly questioned and detained by police interested in his contacts with underground and émigré publishing houses. He incurred the authorities' displeasure with the publication by the clandestine Nowa Prasa of short vignettes depicting life in Poland after the military crackdown in December, 1981. Mr Nowakowski's works were also published abroad by the Paris-based Polish émigré publication, *Kultura*.

Observers interpret recent developments as signs of a toughening official cultural policy.

● School lock-out: About 600 students remain barred from an agricultural training school near the eastern Polish town of Garwolin, where the authorities suspended classes on Thursday after a sit-in protesting at the removal of crucifixes from the classroom.

Provincial educational leaders made little progress towards resolving the "battle of the crosses" in talks with local church officials and parents.

Pupils at three other high schools in Garwolin, a town with a population of 15,000 about 40 miles south-east of Warsaw, returned to classes yesterday, ending a boycott in support of the agricultural students. Officials had warned the students that they would also be locked out if they again missed classes to attend Mass at the local church. The Mass was held half an hour earlier

## Rebuff for Reagan on aid for guerrillas

From Mohsin Ali Washington

The Senate appropriations committee has surprisingly rebuffed by one vote President Reagan's request for an additional \$21m (£14m) in emergency aid for right-wing rebels fighting Nicaragua's Sandinista Government.

The republican-controlled committee made clear that it had been inadequately consulted and wanted the Administration to go through normal Senate channels to get the money. The vote, on Thursday, rejecting the President's request for the additional money for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was 15 to 14.

The committee also put off until Tuesday Mr Reagan's other emergency request for an additional \$93m in military aid to El Salvador in its battle against leftist guerrillas.

The Administration, concerned about a prolonged and controversial congressional debate, attached the request for the additional CIA money to a Bill providing money for low income Americans who cannot afford to pay heating bills.

The request for additional military aid for El Salvador is attached to a Bill calling for increased US food aid to drought-stricken African countries.

The Administration had calculated that the requests would pass quickly because senators would not want to delay or kill these Bills. But the tactic backfired. After rejecting the President's CIA request, the committee went on to approve the fuel Bill.

## Rebel mine damages Nicaraguan ship

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

For the second time in week a ship has been damaged by a mine laid by United States-backed counter-revolutionaries at Nicaragua's main port of Corinto, and for the third time the port of San Juan del Sur with helicopters and heavily-armed high-speed motor launches.

The 3,500-tonne Panamanian registered tanker Los Caribes hit a mine as it left port laden with exports which are life blood to the besieged Nicaraguan economy.

As the badly holed vessel limped back to the dockside it was evident that attempts to clear the mines from Corinto's narrow approaches had been unsuccessful. The tiny Nicaraguan navy has no mine-sweepers, and two fishing boats, trawling nets between them, have been dragging the channel.

The Sandinista Government said the rebels were under United States instructions to establish a kind of military blockade which will make United States economic sanctions bite even harder.

The Deputy Minister of Trade, Señor Bernardo Chamorro Cuadra, said new customers like Japan had teleaxed their concern at the situation.

He said the next few months would be critical to the economy, which is suffering badly from lack of foreign exchange. The country expects to earn \$140m (£93m) from cotton this year and \$100m from coffee. Without these dollars it will run out of oil, food, raw materials and medicines, which it buys in that order of priority on a hand-to-mouth basis as dollars become available.

"But we only receive our dollars after we export," said Señor Chamorro. "If our coffee can't leave Corinto and our cotton remains in Matagalpa we have a problem."

Coffee is particularly susceptible to sabotage of this kind as it must be exported on time every quarter to meet a strict international quota. Señor Chamorro said 100,000 sacks are to be stock piled at the Spanish free port of Santander this month.

The precaution underlines both the vulnerability of the Nicaraguan economy and the deep concern felt here about the mining of its ports.

The contra, as they are so-called, turned to these targets after the failure of their last big land offensive, aimed at occupying parts of Nicaragua and declaring a provisional government.

They have used helicopters for the first time to attack patrol boats, and fast launches to strafe the ports of El Bluff, Potosi and San Juan del Sur with machine-gun fire and rockets.

But just as they appeared to be receiving a whole new range of weapons from their CIA benefactors, the Senate judiciary committee has denied a funds request from President Reagan for emergency funds to keep them supplied.

Far from having a marked effect on the conflict their new weapons have served to underline the increasing reliance of the Contras on the continued supply of American military hardware to sustain a credible war against the leftist Sandinistas. The denial of funds suggests these supplies may not be limitless.

## South Africa drops case

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

The state has withdrawn charges against Mr Allister Sparks, former editor of the *Rand Daily Mail* and now a freelance correspondent for a number of leading foreign publications, who had been accused of violating South Africa's censorship laws.

Charges have also been dropped against his wife, Suzanne, and Mr Bernard Simon, who writes for the *Financial Times* and the *Economist*. They were accused of conspiring to remove documents from Mr Sparks's office before it was raided by the security police.

The case aroused widespread interest because Mr Sparks, though South African, works wholly for overseas publications, including the *Washington Post* and *The Observer*. Had it gone to trial, it could have had the effect of extending South Africa's censorship laws

cent going to just three countries - Vietnam, Cuba and Mongolia.

Net economic aid to communist and non-communist developing countries represents 0.2 per cent of the Soviet gross national product, about half of the average aid rate of industrialized Western countries.

The study says arms sales to developing states are probably Moscow's second biggest source of hard currency.

The report gives no comparative figures for Western arms sales to the Third World, although independent institutes say the United States, France and Britain are major suppliers.

## East trebles its arms sales to Third World

Brussels (Reuters) - The Soviet block's arms sales to non-communist Third World countries have virtually trebled since 1975, a Nato study shows. However, its development aid declined over the same period and may drop further.

A report by Nato's economic committee, obtained by Reuters, says Moscow and its Eastern European allies sold arms worth \$6,000m (£4,000m) to developing states in 1982 but gave them only \$606m in economic aid.

By contrast, Soviet block economic aid and trade subsidies to communist Third World states totalled \$6,800m in the same year, with '92 per

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## Toivo sets off to meet Nujoma

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The armed struggle for the independence of Namibia would continue inside the territory despite the ceasefire agreement between South Africa and Angola, Mr Herman Toivo Ja Toivo, the Namibian black nationalist leader, said here yesterday. He was set free last week after 16 years in prison on Robben Island.

Mr Toivo made the remark at Jan Smuts airport while in transit to the Zambian capital, Lusaka, where he is to hold talks with Mr Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO). Mr Toivo and Mr Nujoma were co-founders of the organization in the 1950s.

Mr Toivo was accompanied by four leading figures in SWAPO's "internal" wing - Mr Hendrik Witbooi, SWAPO's vice-president, Mr Daniel Tjongarero, deputy national chairman, Mr Nico Bessinger, joint secretary for foreign affairs, and Mr Crispin Matongo, a Politburo member.

Mr Nujoma, in addition to being president of the whole organization, also directs from exile the desultory guerrilla war which SWAPO has been fighting since 1966 against South Africa's occupation of Namibia. After Angola's independence from Portugal in 1975, SWAPO

operated from bases in that country.

Mr Toivo and his colleagues applied for permission to go abroad immediately after his release and some days later were granted 30-day travel documents valid for Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana by the South African Administration-General's office in Windhoek, the Namibian capital.

The main purpose of the visit to Lusaka appears to be to discuss a suitable role for Mr Toivo in SWAPO and to prevent any rifts developing between its external and internal wings such as South Africa may have hoped to foster by releasing Mr Toivo.

Before his departure from Windhoek, Mr Toivo said: "I am very pleased, very excited about meeting Sam Nujoma. It will also be a great experience to meet all the comrades, some of whom I have not seen for many years, some of whom I will be meeting for the first time."

Meanwhile, Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, has asked the Botswana Government to investigate the possibility that SWAPO guerrillas may have opened up a new infiltration route into Namibia from Botswana.

Earlier this week, the South African police reported they had killed five out of a group of 14 guerrillas in the Rietfontein district along Namibia's border with Botswana, some 300 miles south of the northern war zone. No guerrillas had been seen there before.

About 800 Swapo insurgents are said to have slipped from Angola into northern Namibia over the past three weeks, apparently in anticipation of the closure of their bases in Angola and an end to further infiltration under the terms of the Pretoria-Luanda accord.

● Mandela freedom denial: South Africa is not considering the release of Mr Nelson Mandela, the former leader of the underground African National Congress (ANC), who has served more than 20 years of a life sentence for sabotage, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said yesterday.

Friends of the Mandela family said this week that President Kaiser Matanzima of the Transkei homeland, who is a relative of Mr Mandela, had conveyed an offer of release conditional on Mr Mr Mandela's agreeing to live in Transkei. They said he was unlikely to take the offer up.

## Ciskei court acquits priest

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

Father Smangaliso Mkhathwa, secretary-general of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, has been acquitted in the Ciskei Regional Court, in the Ciskei tribal "homeland", of charges of subversion, incitement to public violence and addressing an unlawful gathering.

The charges related to his attendance last October at a church service at Fort Hare University, in Ciskei, for students killed in clashes with followers of Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, the Chief Minister of KwaZulu, the Zulu Homeland.

The state's case collapsed when a key witness, Mr Nako Mosala, a former student,

changed his testimony and said Father Mkhathwa had appealed to students to remain calm and not to resort to violence.

Mr Mosala asked the court to disregard an earlier statement which, he said, had been extracted from him when he was naked and under extreme duress. After giving evidence, Mr Mosala was at once released by the Ciskei security police.

Observers from the International Commission of Jurists, the German Justice and Peace Commission and the International Movement of Catholic Jurists were in the court, which was also packed with clergymen

and nuns from various parts of South Africa.

In Johannesburg, the South African Institute of Race Relations released figures showing that 453 people were detained last year on suspicion of security offences, compared with 264 in 1982. The increase was mainly attributable to a 159 per cent rise in the number of people detained in Ciskei - which alone accounted for some 180 detentions last year - and the other nominally independent homelands, Transkei, Bophuthatswana and Venda.

Of the 453 detained last year, 323 had been freed without charge up to the end of last month.

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60%	4.14% p.a.	10.1% p.a.	144%	
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66 The new Building Society Plus Plan from investment adviser R.J. Temple... is just what the name says it is - a way of investing in a building society but at an enhanced return. 29 *Investment Chronicle, 16 December 1983*

66 A savings scheme from R.J. Temple is linked to building societies... provides a return better than a direct investment in a building society. A non-speculative investment, it takes advantage of life assurance premium relief. 39 *The Sunday Times, 11 December 1983*

66... If you combine a building society investment with a life assurance plan, you can achieve far better results than by investing directly... A new plan along these lines has been launched by financial advisers R.J. Temple... 39 *What Investment, January 1984*

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*The Times, 3 March 1984*

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Question Two Do you take part in any activity which could be regarded as hazardous, or do you have definite plans to live outside the UK for more than six weeks in any year? Yes ☐ No ☐

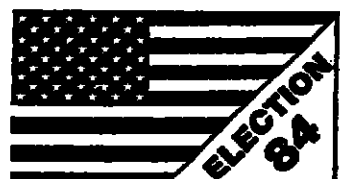
If the answer to either question is "YES", please supply full details on a separate sheet, including the name and address of your doctor. Declaration I declare that the above statements are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief and I agree that this application shall be the basis of the contract between me and City of Westminster. The premiums will be paid by me or my spouse and the policy of the premiums will be repaid in the event of my death. I warrant that I am not a resident of any country other than the United Kingdom. I warrant that I am not a resident of any country other than the United Kingdom. I warrant that I am not a resident of any country other than the United Kingdom.



## The Colorado senator who is a stranger no more

## Few Americans know what makes the maverick Hart tick

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington



With opinion polls showing Senator Gary Hart running neck-and-neck with Mr Walter Mondale for the Democratic nomination, American voters are trying to focus on the policies and principles of a man, virtually unknown until his upset victory in the New Hampshire primary 10 days ago.

The Colorado senator has portrayed himself as representing a new generation of leadership with new ideas. Yet few Americans know what his new ideas are. Fewer still have read his book, *A New Democracy*, which was published a year ago and contains his blueprint for America's future.

Mr Hart's platform is an unconventional package - an "ideological mishmash" - according to Professor Samuel Beer of Harvard - combining standard liberal Democratic policies with a strong emphasis on free-market economics.

During his nine years in the Senate, Mr Hart, aged 47, has rarely wandered far from the Democratic mainstream, and changes which he has championed have on the whole been ones of nuance rather than direction. On most issues, he is considered a liberal, as would be expected of a man who was campaign manager for Mr George McGovern in 1972. The left-leaning Americans for Democratic Action gives him a rating of 80 out of 100 for his voting record in the Senate, compared with 92 for Mr Mondale when he was there.

However, Mr Hart's belief in the free market, advocacy of the need for business growth, opposition to protectionist legislation and ambivalence on the issue of nuclear power have made him something of a political maverick in the Democratic Party. "He is essentially a mainstream liberal but with some conservative impulses," one associate said.

Among his congressional

colleagues, Senator Hart is best known for his ideas for reforming the military, an area in which he is considered a specialist. He wants to restrain defence spending, not by sweeping across-the-board cuts but by putting more emphasis on efficient, well-trained conventional forces and less on nuclear weapons. He is opposed to the MX missile and the B1 bomber. He favours equipping the Air Force with squadrons of relatively simple F16s rather than super-sophisticated F18s and Bear of Harwar - combining standard liberal Democratic policies with a strong emphasis on free-market economics.

As co-founder of the congressional Military Reform Caucus and a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he has also called for a redefining of America's global security interests. The Government should then decide what weapons are needed to defend those interests.

On arms control, Mr Hart, a strong advocate of the unratified Salt Two treaty, was slow to back the nuclear freeze. He believes it should only be an interim measure and followed by talks with the Soviet Union to achieve real reductions in the two countries' nuclear arsenals.

Unlike Mr Mondale, he also supports the concept of a negotiated "build-down" with Moscow, whereby each side would destroy two older missiles for every new one built. He is opposed to the Reagan Administration's policy in Central America and claims to have been the first Democratic candidate to call for a "with-

drawal of Marines from Beirut. He is in favour of regular summit meetings.

Arguing that "the pragmatism of the new deal has become doctrine", Mr Hart says the US must find a way to move from the economy of the past to the economy of the future, an economy not only expanding but which can meet the challenges of increased international competition and rapid technological change.

He is an advocate of an "industrial policy" in which the Government would take the lead in bringing business and labour together to work out the nation's industrial strategy. Although generally opposed to direct government intervention in the market place, he favours a strong government role in retraining workers displaced by technological change and in providing jobs in public works programmes.

He has proposed sweeping (and complex) tax reforms, some aimed at simplifying and improving the system; others at shifting the burden in the direction of corporations and the wealthy. Senator Hart is an outspoken advocate of the need to improve public education as a means of strengthening and adapting the economy to the challenges of the twenty-first century.

He believes that the burgeoning cost of social entitlement programmes, such as Medicare and Medicaid, must be restrained, not simply through cuts but by putting more emphasis on preventive medicine and home care.

On most economic issues Mr Hart has tried to emphasize the need to examine how government money is spent rather than how much. He believes the economic debate between Republicans and Democrats has become bogged down between those who favour fiscal generosity and those on the side of frugality.



Load an clear: Senator Hart making an impromptu speech at Miami Beach rally.

## British seamen's Gulf plea

By John Witherow

As fighting continued yesterday in the marshlands of southern Iraq, a British seamen's union called for the entire Gulf to be classified as a "warlike zone".

The Merchant Navy and the Air Line Officers' Association said the danger of the Iran-Iraq war spreading south meant that all 600-odd ships in the Gulf were threatened, not just those sailing in convoy into the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini or taking on crude oil at Kharg Island.

If the zone was extended from the north-east Gulf, the union said, crew would receive additional bonuses or "danger-money", extra life insurance and would have to volunteer to enter the region.

The heightened threat to shipping in the Gulf, which has

already cost marine insurers about £300m since the war started in 1980, has led to nervousness on the insurance markets and a reluctance of ships to enter the region.

The danger of the 12-hour journey by convoy into Bandar Khomeini, at the northern end of the Gulf, was brought home last week with the missile attacks on several ships, including the British ship, *Charming*, which was severely damaged.

It has now become regular practice for the Iranians to place troops on board vessels (eight soldiers were killed on a Turkish ship last week) and put some of the crew ashore. Ten of the 24 crewmen of the 19,200-ton *Charming* were ashore at the time of the attack.

Shipping experts in Britain estimate that convoys of about

10 cargo ships, escorted by Iranian warships and patrol boats, make the perilous journey to Bandar Khomeini every few days. About 80 ships were reported to be waiting at the southern end of the Gulf for permission to sail north and join a convoy just south of Kharg Island. From where super tankers are still exporting Iranian oil.

The constant threat of attack has led insurers to declare a "war risk area" of 150 miles by 50 miles in the north-east sector of the Gulf. Nevertheless, up to 50 ships a day enter the Gulf.

Powell warning: In a speech last night, Mr Enoch Powell, the MP for South Down, warned the Government against becoming involved in trying to keep the Strait of Hormuz open to shipping.

## Assad accused of blackmail

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday accused President Assad of Syria of threatening President Gemayel of Lebanon with military force to persuade him to agree to this week's cancellation of the accord with Israel originally signed in May last year.

In an interview with the Tel Aviv paper *Yediot Ahronot*, the Prime Minister blamed the Lebanese leader for capitulation and claimed that, during his recent talks with President Assad in Damascus, Mr Gemayel had been warned: "If you do not agree to our demands, we will be inside your palace in Baabda and your

village of Bifkaya within one hour."

Mr Shamir said it was now feared that Syria would take control of the Lebanese Army and order punitive action against Lebanese officers who had cooperated with Israel. "We have acquired a lot of true friends in Lebanon; we are filled with concern for their future. We will continue maintaining ties with them and helping them as much as we can."

The Israeli leader called President Gemayel's decision "a complete surrender to the Syrian demand for total dominance. Assad apparently agreed to Lebanon's conducting some sort of talks with Israel in the

framework of the armistice commission. It goes without saying that we would not even dream of holding talks of this sort. There is no way we would go along with that."

Mr Shamir refused to set any time limit on the proposed Israeli re-deployment in Lebanon, but implied that it would take place soon, now the abrogation of the accord had given Israel the green light to go it alone in the south and east of the country. He said both the Cabinet and the Army were in total agreement that Israel would have to maintain some military presence in Lebanon "for a long time".

## Turks say Greeks lied about naval shooting

From Rasit Gardlick, Ankara

Turkey accused Greece yesterday of fabricating an "incident" in the Aegean in claiming that Turkish warships had fired at a Greek destroyer. It said Greece wanted to create an "artificial crisis in a bid to influence Ankara's friends and allies on issues regarding Turkey".

At the same time, Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister, tried to defuse the tension by once again extending his "hand of peace" to Athens, noting that "magnanimity dictates such an attitude". Mr Ozal chided Greece for "being a child who cries mama before anything happens".

The Turkish statement, issued in reply to one by Greece on Thursday evening, rejected categorically the charge that five Turkish destroyers on an exercise off the northern Aegean island of Samothrace had crossed into Greek territorial waters to fire at the Greek warship and several fishing vessels.

The statement backed up by a chart, pointed out that during the exercise in Turkish territorial and in international waters, "of which Greece was informed a fortnight ago" Turkish warships had first practised an illumination, shooting flares which harmlessly parachuted down.

They then fired on targets at the Turkish island of Samothrace, well onto the Greek peninsula, 45 nautical miles to the east of the nearest Greek island. Finally they conducted an air defence exercise, using anti-aircraft shells, which exploded high in the air and constitute no danger to surface vessels.

An investigation had definitely established that at no time were shots fired at the Greek vessel, and the Greek Government had been informed forthwith.

"We cannot understand why a Greek naval vessel was sent to the exercise area", the statement added.

Turkey said that Greek motives for creating the crisis were "targeted to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean rather than the Aegean Sea". This was taken here to mean an attempt to influence the United States Congress in its present scrutiny of the \$934m (£625m) military and economic aid to Turkey for the next fiscal year, a small portion of which has already been clipped off recently.

The ambassadors of Nato countries were summoned to the Foreign Ministry to be briefed on Turkey's version of the incident.

ATHENS: Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, appealed for national unity in the face of what he called "deliberate Turkish provocations" designed to test the Greek people's resolve to defend its country (Mario Modiano writes).

The Greek armed forces have been kept on an "increased state of vigilance", but there has been no mobilization, nor any cancellation of leave. The Turkish ambassador in Athens, Mr Fahir Alacum, after some pointed official hints, is preparing to return to Turkey tomorrow, but he was already due for transfer to Rome next month. The Greek ambassador in Ankara has already been recalled.

Leading article, page 9

## Russia and India clinch arms deal

Delhi - The Soviet Union agreed yesterday to sell India advanced MIG fighters, warships, surface-to-air missiles and sophisticated electronic surveillance systems, at the end of discussions with a Soviet military delegation led by the Defence Minister, Marshal Ustinov (Kuldip Nayar writes).

The minister had earlier held an unscheduled two-hour luncheon meeting with Mrs Gandhi, the Prime Minister.

Leading article, page 9

## Customs talks

Vienna - Italian customs officers working to rule at Thor Maglian, Austria's second most important frontier post with Italy, resumed normal working, as Austrian and Italian transport ministers met in Venice to discuss means of speeding up cross-frontier traffic.

## Punjab troops

Delhi (AP) - The Indian Government sent 300 additional Border Security Force troops to Punjab state after the toll in terrorist attacks over the past three weeks rose to 83 with the death of one person in a bomb attack in Ludhiana.

## Grenada claims

St George's (AP) - Grenadians have filed 500 claims seeking some \$100m compensation for losses caused by the US-led invasion last October, a government official said. So far, American authorities have paid out \$40,000 in claims.

## Nazis banned

Bonn - The mountain resort of Bad Harzburg has banned a planned reunion of about 800 former Waffen SS soldiers who had booked a hall for four days in May under the pretext of holding a conference of economic experts.

## Opium alert

Kuala Lumpur (AP) - Drug enforcement officers along the Malaysian-Thai border have been placed on full alert in view of the bumper opium harvest of 500-600 tonnes expected in the Golden Triangle area of Burma, Laos and Thailand.

## Uniform ban

Harare (AP) - Zimbabwe published new regulations barring prisoners from wearing uniforms when they appear in court. The trial of six white Zimbabwe air force officers was delayed last year when the prosecution objected to the defendants appearing before the judge in uniform.

## Fume deaths

Phoenix (AP) - Two workers were killed and 28 overcame by fumes when a faulty water pump filled a large drainage pipe with carbon dioxide at the Papago Freeway construction site in Arizona.

## Soviet suicide

Athens (AP) - Mr Vladimir Tsarougey, aged 40, an official attached to the Soviet commercial mission here, was found dead at his home in an apparent case of suicide, police said.

## Miners killed

Eisden (AP) - Seven miners, including four Turks and an Italian, were killed in an explosion in a mine near this north-east Belgian town.

## TV blitz for Super Tuesday

From Christopher Thomas, Tallahassee



Senator Gary Hart? A week ago the burgeoning Florida retirement communities had never heard of him. Neither had the Dixie conservatives in the north nor the zealous liberals in their big southern houses.

The man from Colorado is a stranger no more. He was arrived in Florida in a television blitz, \$235,000 (£160,000) of it, with enough air time before the primary on "Super Tuesday" next week to make his name roll off the lips as easily as Mondale, Glenn and Jackson.

His popularity surge is phenomenal. He had 1 per cent of the vote in an opinion poll taken by the *Miami Herald* last month. A rerake a week ago gave him 15 times as much, placing him second to a still-dominant Mr Walter Mondale.

But that was before the television blitz. Mr Hart arrived on the Florida screen for the first time on Tuesday, pitching his politics at the level Florida likes - moderately liberal on social issues, conservative on defence.

Mr Mondale and Mr Hart are chasing the votes that would have gone to Florida's native son, Mr Renben Askew, who withdrew from the contest. So far he has not endorsed any former rival.

Senator John Glenn, although well known in Florida, is not performing well in the polls. He is even behind the Rev Jesse Jackson, who is hoping to capitalize on the state's 17 per cent black population.

Blacks are not concentrated enough to elect any delegates on their own, but they usually cast one out of every seven Democratic votes statewide. In other words blacks alone are unlikely to be able to do much for Mr Jackson.

In Florida, Alabama and Georgia Mr Glenn's television tactics are going concentrated on the military, heroic aspects of his past. The former astronaut "put his life on the line for this country," one television-commercial states bluntly.

They like things to have a military ring down South, especially in hero-hungry Georgia and Alabama and in the military areas of north Florida.

Florida will send 143 delegates to the Democratic national convention, the eighth largest state delegation. Mr Askew would have walked to his withdrawal sent his rival's scurrying into the state with untimely vigour.

Mr Hart's belated arrival is the product of new funds that have accompanied his increasing popularity. In the three critical southern primaries on Tuesday - Florida, Alabama and Georgia - his most fertile prospects appear to be in Florida, although he is without doubt making progress elsewhere.

His big problem is that he filed for only 34 delegates in Florida, fewer than half the number that will be elected on Tuesday. The remainder of the delegation will be selected later by the Florida Democratic executive committee on the basis of Tuesday's outcome. It is important, therefore, for him to pick up delegates who would have represented Mr Askew.

Although Mr Hart views Florida as his most promising battle-ground, Alabama and Georgia will each be treated to an unexpected \$100,000 of Hart television advertising.

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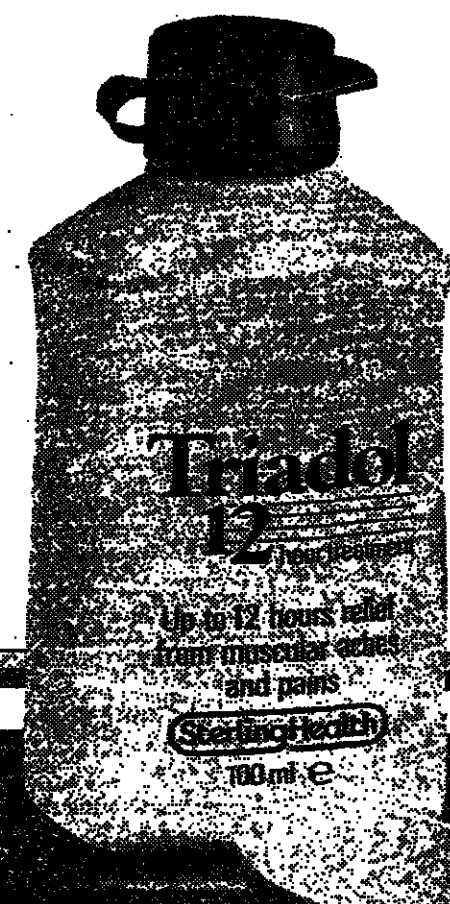
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# Muscular pain? Forget it.

دكتور من الأصل



THE ARTS

Interview

Entertaining great hopes

On the wall of the fireplace in Margaret Ramsay's office hangs the original of Kenneth Halliwell's famous collage poster for *Loot*. Ramsay, doyen of London play agents, with a far-some reputation for bluntness, looked after Orton during his brief, tempestuous literary career. They were not, she insists, friends, but then she would not claim to be friends with any of her authors. Nevertheless, they corresponded regularly and Orton dedicated *Loot* to her. She once offered to buy Orton a coat. Orton said that he would like a fur one, then opted for "some ghastly imitation thing made out of teddy bear material." "He had simple tastes," she says.

Few plays, and even fewer comedies to have created such a stir as *Loot*. When it was first performed in Manchester, the local costabulary were in the wings to make sure that offending passages (about illegitimate children being conceived on the dance floor) had been excised. In Bournemouth, two dozen members of the audience walked out in disgust on the opening night and promised the headline in the following day's Times: "Bournemouth Old Ladies Shocked".

I remember driving up to Golden Green one Saturday night to see *Loot*. They had to decide whether to bring it to the West End. Afterwards I said: "Take it off. It's simply not funny." Joe was understandably

upset and so I said casually: "We'll get it on probably in six months' time." And six months later he had the biggest success of his life.

*Loot* was only Orton's second full-length play. On August 9, 1967, less than a year after the West End premiere, he was bludgeoned to death by Halliwell, who then committed suicide. It was, as many remarked at the time, a peculiarly Ortonesque way to go. That the term should already have passed into theatrical parlance was a measure of Orton's impact; his name had become synonymous with anything outrageous, gruesome and deliberately distasteful. Orton had stuck a rocket under traditional middle-class sensibilities and sat back gleefully as the sparks flew. "He initiated Bad Taste in the theatre," says Margaret Ramsay. "I don't think there had ever been a coffin onstage in a comedy before Joe. Or false teeth for that matter. You had this extraordinary sense that he didn't really give a damn about anything."

Almost 20 years on, *Loot* is getting its first West End revival at the Ambassadors on Tuesday, directed by Jonathan Lynn and with Leonard Rossiter as the dangerously unhinged Inspector Trueman. If time has tamed the scabrousness of Orton's wit, the audacity and spirit of impertinence that characterized his best work are

as fresh as ever. Too mischievous ever to proselytize, Orton was nevertheless a crusader in spite of himself. "One must shake the audience out of their expectations," he said once.

Since his death, Orton has passed into the sort of mythology reserved for those who have lived - at least by reputation - excitedly, and died violently. There has been a biography by John Lahr - and Alan Bennett wrote the screenplay for a proposed film version of Orton's life, which ran into legal and financial problems and had to be shelved. "If Orton had lived I doubt if he would have written for the theatre any more after *What the Butler Saw*," Miss Ramsay believes. "He had been talking about giving it up and going to live in the Far East. Perhaps in a way he was preparing for death without knowing it."

Margaret Ramsay, formerly an actress, and, for a while, opera singer had set up her own agency in 1959 with a £1,000 loan from Edward Sutor, the famous first-nighter. Tiny, slight and incorrigibly pug-nacious, she soon revealed a remarkable astute nose for talent. "If I like a play or playwright, it's unusually about two years before anyone else does." One of the first authors she represented was Robert Bolt. The list has since swollen to include Alan Ayckbourn, Willy Russell, Peter Nichols,

Edward Bond, David Hare and Christopher Hampton.

When Orton first turned up at her office in 1963, he and Halliwell had just got out of prison after a six-month sentence for stealing and defacing library books. He showed me his play, *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, which I was really too keen on. He didn't seem bothered by this and said he would try to write me a better one next time. He was very charming, very cute, but he always spoke the truth which can be very chilling, although I found it attractive. When he was going I asked him what he was living on. He said "bread and milk" - he was on the dole.

"I think Joe gave a lot of people the courage to write. He showed that you could thumb your nose at the world and get away with it". Orton, of course, arrived on the scene at precisely the right moment: feathers were there to be ruffled the threshold of moral outrage was tantalizingly low. These days, in less excitable times, one suspects that surprising audiences out of their ruts has become harder than ever. "I wonder if anything really shocks people now," says Margaret Ramsay. "Every play should be able to change the world and every performance should change each member of the audience." "I'm not sure this happens but you keep hoping that it might."

John Preston



Margaret Ramsay and poster: "Orton initiated Bad Taste in the theatre". Photograph by Chris Harris

Radio  
Capital character

In the course of its existence, Capital Radio's Playhouse has now acquired a fairly distinctive character, one which, I suspect, is quite reasonably intended to stand as good a chance as possible of gaining and holding the attention of its audience. What that character may be will perhaps emerge from a brief run-down of the new network presented in the current season, which opened last October with Peter Simpson's *One Nine for a Lady*. *Breaker*, a play that moved fast and entertainingly around the world of CB radio.

In November, *Misconceptions*, by Felicity Hayes McCoy, told with a light touch of a visitor from backward, popish Ireland who dumbsounds her anglicized sister by her relaxed and knowledgeable approach to her own unwanted pregnancy. Come December, ex-docker Norman Riley drew on his experience in *What Difference Does it Make?*, a first play about a strike that misfires, but in doing so hands some useful tips on industrial action to the slaves of a local bakery.

New Year began with Paul Green's *Power Play*, which told of the chaotic impact of a punk girl on a floundering rock 'n' roll group, while last Sunday - February's production was a repeat - *If You Can't Fight, You'd Better Dance* by Nick McCarty went into the problems of a young black lad showing his promise as a boxer and trying to keep his life out of the hands of the local mafia.

These five seem to me pretty characteristic of Capital's output both in subject matter and in treatment. The stories are London-based, aiming for topicality and popular appeal, inclined to avoid a middle-class, middle-aged setting and certainly avoiding anything that might bring complaint. For instance, at the start of *Misconceptions* it did just occur to me that the lady from Ireland might be going to prove relaxed and knowledgeable in her approach to a stick of gelignite, until I remembered I was listening to Capital.

If I had to make a comparison with BBC radio drama, I would say Capital's Playhouse as a whole presents life and

experience in a manner similar to a certain kind of up to the minute *Afternoon Theatre*. It also rather resembles *The Archers*, but at a lower level of complexity and in a different social milieu. In fact, if you imagine each of the plays I've mentioned as being a bit like an omnibus edition of a soap opera, that will tell you something of the style. And the likeness doesn't quite end there: Capital plays often leave the impression that they were going to be before they started and will continue after they have finished, not so much because they create a powerful sense of past and future brought together at a point in time, but because they are part of an undifferentiated flow.

None of this is to say that I don't think they should be there or even that I don't enjoy them. Last Sunday's play, for instance, was crisply written, quite gripping, was a nice performance from Elvis Payne as the young black; apart from one or two distinctly heavy-handed sequences, I heard it with some pleasure. But it certainly wasn't a play to compel you to silence, or involve you deeply with its producer, Jane Morgan, but the things of think about them differently.

It is my opinion that I should be hearing not less than one such every year and particularly from the ILR station, which of them all is far and away in the best financial position to provide it. Local radio can do it, as Radio Clyde's *Till All the Stars Run Dry* has shown. I can't help feeling that Capital may be altogether too wedded to the style of play it has established.

To turn briefly to the BBC and its works, I must say that the standard of interview recording and of narration did nothing to help Set Europe Abaze (Radio 4, March 7; instance, at the start of *Misconceptions* it did just occur to me that the lady from Ireland might be going to prove relaxed and knowledgeable in her approach to a stick of gelignite, until I remembered I was listening to Capital).

If I had to make a comparison with BBC radio drama, I would say Capital's Playhouse as a whole presents life and

David Wade

WEEKEND CHOICE

Peter Hillmore, specialist in *The Observer*, penchants in social trivia, interspersed with the odd revelation of more than passing interest. He is a mischievous scribe and, by his own admission in *One Pair of Eyes* (tomorrow, BBC 2, 8.05 pm), pompous, opinionated and a Smart Alec. All this, and much more, that is even less flattering is confirmed in Christopher Sykes's film in which Mr Hillmore, a lone wolf except when he and his fellow gossip columnist, Nigel Dempster, make up a pair of bookends in a character assassination tête-à-tête, is seen prowling around literary and political functions in what looks like a fruitless search for titbits.

His *amour-propre* almost survives a minor dressing-down by his deputy editor, which one assumes was not specially staged for the cameraman.

Paula Milne's serial *Driving Ambition*, now in its second week (tonight, BBC 1, 9.00) is *Fitzcarraldo* scaled down to English suburban proportions. For one man's operatic obsession read two housewives' determination to race and win at Brands Hatch. They have started from scratch and are ready to sell even their wedding rings to raise the cash. Such desperation makes nonsense of the label of comedy that one is tempted to fix.

Peter Davalle

Television  
Sinister angels of death

It takes someone with a mind like P. D. James's to take from nurses their ministering angel image and reveal their sinister potential. This she did last night in *Shroud for a Nightingale*, adapted for Anglia by Robin Chapman, directed by John Gorrie and produced by John Rosenberg, which began what promises to be a gripping five-part journey.

Miss James for many years combined a career in the Home Office and health service with her crime writing and here, with the action set in a hospital and nurses' home, her experiences have coincided. She has a first appreciation of suspense and the ability to make innocence anywhere seem like a mask.

Her student nurses looked hygienic, but soon we knew that one was pregnant, and not by the consultant surgeon, played with a mixture of pomposity and guile by Josie Ackland, who she had had an affair: another is a religious nut not averse to blackmail. The sisters, too, seemed pretty suspicious.

I thought it was the arms dealer patient, Martin Dettlinger (Richard Marnet), who would

be shuffled off in this episode, but no, it was the religious nut, Deborah Findlay that I wasn't sorry to see the last of her.

Her despatch was cleverly effected as she acted the patient in a naso-gastric feed practice, which makes a change from the bang-bang kind of thing that becomes such a bore. It happened right in front of Chief Superintendent Adam Dalgleish. His late entry, though we could sense his purposeful, approaching tread, added to the tension.

Roy Marsden is the formidable Dalgleish. Seeing him now, it is difficult to accept that so recently he was the kindly Mr Chips. He is not the kind of policeman I would like to be stopped by, even if I had not a millilitre of alcohol in my blood. He has the look of a man who makes you feel you must have done something.

No doubt he will sort this and the inevitable complications and departures out. I shall watch him, though were I in hospital, I might have one eye on the staff.

Dennis Hackett

Theatre

Force in favour of the females

The Aspern Papers  
Haymarket

Not only the advance publicity but the Haymarket programme itself makes much of the fact that Henry James's story derives from the revelations William Graham extracted from Claire Clairmont, Byron's last surviving mistress.

Previous productions of Michael Redgrave's stage version have characterized the Jamesian sleuth Harry Jarvis as a cold-blooded New England man of letters whose passions, ever in pursuit of the long-lost papers of America's first poet, are strictly limited. In Frith Banbury's revival, the role is played by Christopher Reeve and, even without any memories of *Superman*, you are plainly directed to view him in the Byronic shadow as totally obsessed by his mission and completely aware of his effect on the two women guarding the Aspern shrine.

In theory that ought to work. The trouble with *The Aspern Papers* has always been that, while it offers two superb female roles, the man who instigates the events has nothing like their clarity or force. The subject of the play, which debates the rival claims of the "burn the widows school" (e.g.

the case of Mrs Alban Berg), versus that against parasitic academics (e.g. William Golding's *The Paper Men*), is perennial; and requires a statement of equal strength from both sides.

Unfortunately, as written, the role of HJ simply does not possess those resources. In the opening scene he tells his confident that there is no baseness he will not commit to get his hands on the documents, and that he plans to gain access to old Miss Bordereau's treasure chest by making love to her niece. However, apart from taking her out for dinner, he does nothing of the kind. His other description of himself as a dilettante is closer to the truth.

Mr Reeve gives an excellent performance of predatory intelligence held in check by ramrod good breeding. He allows HJ's arrogance to find an outlet with her servant Pasquale, he engulfs the trusting Tina in charm, and he unfailingly marks every turning point of the action: announcing his quest in a flat, grumbly voice just as she is leaving the room; unable to control his hands when he learns that the old lady keeps the papers under her bed. But he does not succeed in disentangling the inbuilt contradictions of the character, or establishing any bold new

outline. You despise him less than usual; but understand him no better.

The two companion performances are superb, even admitting indulgent direction which allows them both to luxuriate in their own orbits rather than developing the tensions of a partnership.

The first half of the piece is unchallengeably dominated by Wendy Hiller, first trundled on in the likeness of George Burns in a Venetian golfing cap, a mummified, unspeakably ancient *salon* monster, taking every mean advantage of extreme old age to treat those around her like dirt. The derision Dame Wendy can put into isolated words like "dear" or "sweet", pulling them out like a poisoned web, or taking you on a journey of desolation through every emphatic syllable, has to be heard to be believed. Not only human beings, but the whole natural world incur her withering disdain, when she says she has had her share of arbores, or asks whether sunsets "call to you". The other side of the character, no less striking, is the immediate grasp of the present tense she shows when it comes to questions of hard cash. The lower lip juts, the neck tendons strain, and she states her terms as if from the back of a street barrow. Poor lighting robs her

of the full force of her famous last line - "You publishing scoundrel!" - but if I have to choose one performance to remember her by, this is it.

Vanessa Redgrave's Tina supplies something less expected: not the portrait of a withered simpleton, but a young girl emerging unscathed from cold storage. The description "dim but not without pride" fits her, but it does not take into account the speed with which she grows up, or the trusting, open-hearted generosity that marks her out even at her furtive scurrying first appearances.

Generosity has always been a sovereign quality of this actress's work, and it is her guarantee against pathos, very necessary in this role - so that when she does stumbly state her terms (marriage or no papers) the sight of her awkward lip movement, her gesture as if throwing her hand away, and the idiot noises she makes before finding words, make you feel less sorry for her than conscious of how you behave in the same situation.

Congratulations to Carl Toms for the grandly gloomy setting, its hint of flowers and sun through the long-neglected windows.

Irving Wardle

Queen's Bench Division

Taking steps to enforce planning control

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Bulk Storage Ltd  
Before Mr Justice McCullough  
(Judgment delivered March 2)

A notice served under section 3(1) of the Building Restrictions (War-Time) Conventions Act 1946 of a proposal to take steps for enforcing planning control was a step for enforcing control within section 4(1) and therefore works carried out on land or use of land began in the war could not be deemed to comply with building laws or planning permission. Mr Justice McCullough held refusing an application for judicial review by the secretary of state's decision in relation to an application by Bulk Storage Ltd under section 2 of the Act.

Section 4 provides: "(1) Where any works on land carried out, or use of land begun during the war or period immediately after the war, or the expiration of five years from the end of that period, and no determination has been given under this Act whether the works or use fall to comply with any building law or planning control, the works or use shall by virtue of this section be treated for all purposes as complying therewith unless steps for enforcing the law or control have been begun before the expiration of the said five years."

Section 7 provides: "(6) In calculating... the period of five years... there shall be disregarded any time during which, notwithstanding the provisions of subsection

(2) of section 1 of this Act, a building law or planning control is unenforceable by reason of the subsistence in or over land of any interest or right to possession held by or on behalf of the Crown."

Mr Robert Caruath for the applicants; Mr Stephen Atkinson for the secretary of state; Mr Robert Gray, QC, for the council.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH said that the land in question formed part of an area requisitioned by the Crown during the war so that an airfield could be built. Between 1942 and 1948, 28 buildings were built and concrete laid down. The airfield was closed in 1946. By then the Crown had begun to use it as a storage depot.

The Crown purchased the freehold in September 1950 and retained it until July 16, 1976 when it was conveyed to the applicants. By 1964 the applicants occupied all the land and since 1976 they had used it for storage.

On May 23, 1980, Epping Forest District Council served three notices under section 3 of the Building Restrictions (War-Time) Conventions Act 1946 on the applicants, reciting that it proposed to take steps to enforce planning control in relation to the works on and use of the land which did not comply with planning control.

The applicants applied to the council under section 4 of the Act to determine whether the works or use did fall to comply with planning control, and if the council decided that they so failed, then to decide

whether they should be deemed to comply.

The council failed to determine the application and the applicants appealed to the secretary of state.

The 1946 Act was passed to make provisions in respect of works on land carried out during the war period, and uses of land begun during that period, which did not comply with building laws or planning control.

The applicants related to use of land, namely storage and to the works which had been carried out on the land, namely the erection of the buildings and the concreting.

The applicants submitted that by the operation of section 4 (1), the works should be treated for all purposes as complying with planning control. They contended that the five-year period had long since expired. They contended that the section 3(1) notices were not a step for enforcing planning control.

The secretary of state decided that the five years ran from July 16, 1976 to July 16, 1981 and therefore he had jurisdiction to determine the application. He held that the section 3(1) notices were a "step" for the purposes of section 4 (1). As that had been served before July 16, 1981 he determined that the works did not comply with planning control.

Determining the relevant period of five years involved construing section 7(6).

Under the previous planning control imposed by the Town and Country Planning Act 1932 the Crown was immune from suit. The Town and Country Planning Act 1947 should not be construed as

having taken away any of that immunity unless clear words were used. In 1946, Parliament enacted a provision which expressly permitted enforcement proceedings to be taken in very limited circumstances against non-complying uses and works carried out or begun by the Crown during the war. If in 1947 it had intended to make further inroads into the Crown's immunity, that would have been spelt out expressly and clearly.

Accordingly, sections 75 and 23 of the 1947 Act could not have been used to enforce planning control on the works in question between 1948 and 1976. In that period they remained outside planning control.

The applicants submitted that steps referred to in section 4(1) must be steps taken subsequent to the service of the notice. On the simple question of the meaning of the words "the Crown's immunity" was against that submission.

The ordinary meaning of taking a step was to perform a move or moves in a course of action or to take action or measures towards attaining an end. The service of the notice, if not indeed the resolution to initiate proceedings, was a step for enforcing planning control and was an act comprehended by the phrase "steps for enforcing the law or control" within section 4(1). The applicants had therefore failed in their application and it must be dismissed.

Solicitors: Cartwright Cunningham Haselgrove & Co; Treasury Solicitor: Mr P. J. Cunliffe-Jones, Epping.

Court of Appeal  
Matrimonial Act is not retrospective

Lewis v Lewis and Another  
The Court of Appeal (Sir John Arnold, President and Mr Justice Anthony Lincoln) held on March 5 that Schedule 2 of the Matrimonial Homes and Property Act 1981 which was substituted for section 7 of the Matrimonial Homes Act 1967 was not retrospective.

A former spouse who had failed to make an application for the transfer of her former husband's tenancy before the grant of decree absolute in August 1978 could not now be deemed the statutory tenant. By Schedule 2, Part 1, paragraph 1 of the 1981 Act the court was

empowered to transfer a tenancy in the exercise of discretion on granting a decree of divorce or at any time thereafter.

MR JUSTICE LINCOLN said that the court had been referred to *Williams v Williams* ([1971] P 271) *Hewson v Fox* ([1971] P 348) and *Chatterjee v Chatterjee* ([1976] Fam 199). Those decisions gave retrospective effect to similar provisions in matrimonial statutes.

Against that had to be weighed the need to prevent erosion of an important principle - the presumption against retrospective operation. The earlier reforming statutes were in danger of leaving the mischief which brought them into existence unremedied unless they were given retrospective effect.

By contrast the statutory and judicial background to the 1981 Act had changed. There was accumulated experience in enacting and exercising transfer powers. The Act was not designed to deal with urgent reform.

The court would refuse to divest the landlord of his property acquired right. The 1981 Act had no retrospective effect.

An endorsement counts as three points

King v Loango  
An endorsement ordered by a court at one hearing before the commencement of section 19 of the Transport Act 1981 in respect of convictions for two or more offences committed on different occasions counted as an order for the endorsement of three penalty points in total and not three penalty points in respect of each occasion upon which an offence was committed.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice Mann) so held on March 2 in dismissing an appeal by the prosecutor against the decision of the Bedford Crown Court to allow an appeal against disqualification from holding a driving licence for six months under section 19(2) of the Transport Act 1981 imposed by the Bedford Justices.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF said that section 19(1) clearly provided what was to be done when a person was convicted of an offence involving disqualification after the coming into force of that subsection.

"An order for endorsement" in section 19(2) had to be strictly construed, and referred to an order made on a particular occasion before a particular court, and therefore that section was not qualified by section 19(1) of the Act.

Correction

In *Freeman v Home Office* (The Times March 8), solicitors for the plaintiff were George E. Baker & Co, Guildford, who came into the case after Bindman & Partners.

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Order valid after death of former husband

Warren-Gash and Another v Lane  
Mr Justice Sheldon granted an application in the Family Division on February 27 by executors of a deceased former husband for a declaration that an order made in divorce proceedings was valid and enforceable by them against the former wife.

HIS LORDSHIP said that there had been a consent order in 1977. The husband had agreed to make a lump sum payment to the wife and to transfer her interest in the former matrimonial home.

The wife had received the money but no further steps had been taken to complete the transfer of her interest. On the death of the husband last year in a motor

Power to change pleas of disciplined policemen

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Chief Constable of Nottingham  
The Secretary of State for the Home Department had power under regulation 7(4) of the Police Appeals Rules (SI 1977 No 759) to allow a police officer convicted of a police disciplinary offence pursuant to a plea of guilty, to change the plea on appeal to a hearing before a tribunal appointed by the secretary of state under Schedule 5 of the Police Act 1965, as amended by section 12(6) of the Police Act 1976.

In deciding whether to allow a change of plea, the secretary of state was not obliged to adhere to the principles followed by appeal courts in criminal cases.

Mr Justice Hodgson, sitting in the Queen's Bench Division on Feb-

ruary 27, dismissed an application by a chief constable of police to quash the secretary of state's decision to allow three police officers to change their unequivocal guilty pleas, on their appeals against conviction, for police disciplinary offences.

HIS LORDSHIP said that as a pure question of principle, justice demanded that if there was any chance that a police officer had been wrongly convicted because he had pleaded guilty when he was not guilty, then the conviction should be reconsidered.

The secretary of state in deciding to allow the officers to change their pleas before the tribunal was not doing anything which any rule of law or justice would have inhibited him from doing.



## SPORTING DIARY

### Pub ahoy!

The landlady of a Merseyside pub, the Mainbrace, wants to take the Isle of Man ferry for the Milk Cup final between Liverpool and Everton in a fortnight's time. Lillian Smith, an Everton fan, is trying to gather 800 supporters prepared to take the long route to Wembley alongside her. The ferry company says it will cost them £70 each, and Mrs Smith is not confident that the trip will come off. She said: "I was not left feeling hopeful - just wondering where was this pioneer spirit we were supposed to be famous for."

● The Football Association's new sponsors, General Motors, provided Our Boys with a coach to ferry them about in Paris for the most recent in the series of ghastly horrors we watching fools were forced to suffer. The coach turned out to be every bit as good as the team: after one training session it would not even start and had to be pushed.

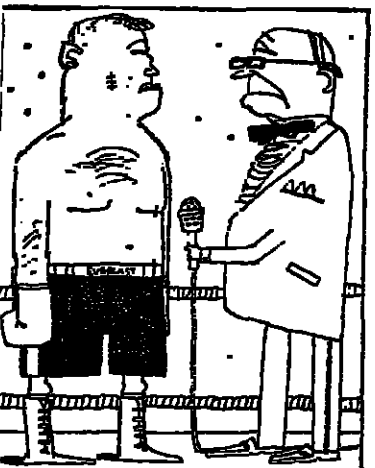
### On the box

Our boxing man, the incomparable Srikumar Sen, has come up with a contender for the greatest of them all on the television *Fights to Remember* series. He says he will never forget the bout between two French heavyweights, Oliver and Papazian, which he saw in Paris on the same bill as Tony Sibson. Sri described events thus: "Oliver with his twirling moustache looked like an RSM; Papazian made Dookhan of Sgt. Bilko's motor pool look positively a hard man. Oliver chased Papazian round the ring for 30 seconds and dropped him with a tap to the stomach. Papazian went down on one knee, shook his head, stood up, waved his arms about, said something to the ref which was clearly the French equivalent of 'Blow this for a lark' and walked out."

### Wages of failure

Bobby Robson gets a lot of stick for chopping and changing the England team, but his critics should take a look at Tamworth of the South League Midlands Division. In 30 games or so this season they have used a total of 54 players - every week there are new faces. They have slashed their wage bill by 75 per cent, and to compound their ignominy they suffered the ultimate footballing disaster of failing to beat Milton Keynes City, thus sinking below the hapless Miltions on goal difference to hit bottom of the league.

BARRY FANTONI



"It was an easy fight, Harry, and all I want now is a crack at the BMA"

### Freud in a flap

Clement Freud, of the bloodhound flapping tracks. These are greyhound tracks that race independently of National Greyhound Racing Club rules. Trainers licensed by the NGRC can get a Ministry of Agriculture permit to buy cheap meat from the knackers. Not so those independent souls who prefer the game where unknown dogs called Blackie streak to shocking multi-length victories. Thunderous our man of the people, who is MP for Ely. "Small trainers who use independent flapping tracks such as those at Wisbech or March should have the same opportunity to buy cheap meat."

● The age of the felt-tip pen has long been with us: the era of felt-tip whip now dawns. It's an experimental model, designed to make the most windmill-armed jockey in Ireland roar as gently as any sucking dove.

### Light touch

The eccentric bumbling that surrounded the entire Shergar kidnap seems summed up by a ridiculous problem that confronted the Irish police. Running over budget in their investigations, they made such enthusiastic cuts that the lads had no funds for light and heat in their caravan at their headquarters at Ballymoney. They had to go out and buy candles. The true answer, as revealed in Colin Turner's book *The Search for Shergar*. It is a bit like a Dick Francis thriller with the plot gone wildly wrong.

### Breaking point

Correspondence on the highest break possible in snooker (155 is the highest bid) is followed by more writing on the lowest possible aggregate score for two players. This is not, Ronald Marshall alleges, 42, or 15 reds taken singly followed by all the colours. The true answer, he says, is 31. To achieve this you must pot all 15 reds with one shot, and at the same moment go in-off, finishing up with nil and gifting your opponent full points. Unperturbed by your bizarre play, he then pots all the colours. Very likely, Mr March.

Simon Barnes

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

## Candidely, it didn't occur to me



Voltaire (left) and Rousseau: literary graffiti, but where's the wit?

In the pages of Professor Maurice Cranston's outstanding new biography of Rousseau (only the first volume of two so far) there is lurking a man who I fear is destined to remain an unsung hero unless I sing him.

He (come to think of it, he might be she) is G. R. Havens. This Havens I have never met, and it is unlikely that he is still alive, for he published a book in 1933, and the book was not of the kind likely to be essayed by a youth. Still, if he wrote it in his thirties he could still be well and cheerful in his eighties today, and if any reader of these words is in a position to pass on to Mr Havens my best wishes, I would esteem it a kindness.

The book he wrote is called *Voltaire's Marginalia on the Pages of Rousseau*, and it was published by Columbia University Press. Had I stumbled upon this title before reading Professor Cranston's book, I would have assumed that the marginalia consisted of remarks like "Tien!", "Regardez!", "Imbecile!", "Nom d'un pipe!", and this one would have had to be written sideways down the margin, not horizontally. "How many more times do I have to point out that it was not me who said 'I disagree with what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it' but one of my twentieth-century biographers, who put the words into my mouth?"

Unfortunately, I cannot at present lay my hands on a copy of the book, and the only lines that Professor Cranston quotes directly consist of things like "Ridiculous supposition!" and "Ass of Diogenes, how you condemn yourself!" Possibly these lose something vital in translation, but I have to say that "Ass of Diogenes, comme vous condamnez vous-meme!" and "Supposition ridicule!" do not go for towards bearing out Voltaire's reputation as a wit, besides being not much different from the kind of thing I would have envisaged from the title of Mr Havens's book alone.

But it is not the quality of Voltaire's annotations that concerns me today; it is the industry of Mr Havens. For the truth of the matter is: I wish I had thought of the idea,

and carried it out. I wish I had tracked down Voltaire's copy of Rousseau (it is in Leningrad, apparently, of all unlikely places), deciphered his handwriting, elucidated any oblique references, summed up Voltaire's opinion of Rousseau's ideas as indicated in these marginal notes, added an introduction, a bibliography and an index, and sat back, as I hope Mr Havens did, content to have dotted an i and crossed a t for posterity.

Once, it was possible to know everything about everything; the first edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was completed in 1771 (it included, among much other interesting information, the news that California was an island) in three fat volumes, and there were many men in London and Edinburgh and Paris, in Weimar, Rome and St. Petersburg, who knew everything the book contained, and some who knew a great deal more. It did not last; Goethe, last of the polymaths, died in 1832, calling for more light. By the time the nineteenth century was into its stride, it was no longer possible to know about everything; very well, said the savants, we will henceforth know everything about everything, very well, said the savants, we will henceforth know something about everything and everything about something. The first of these twin aims took sick when the explosion

of scientific knowledge began in the second half of the century and was finally laid to rest with the larger explosion after the Second World War. All that was left was the knowledge of everything about something, and when the few remaining exemplars of that knowledge - Professor Edel on Henry James, for instance - are gone there will never be another.

That is where I come in. I would, it is true, like to know everything about everything, or failing that something about everything, or failing that everything about something. But I would settle for knowing everything about nothing.

Who fished the murex up? What porridge had John Keats? These are the questions I would like to be able to answer, knowing that I shall never learn what song the sirens sang. Indeed, I once conceived a real project of this kind, based on Swedenborg's *Arcania Caelestia*, of which I had read or been told (or dreamed) that the first edition sold precisely four copies and that one of these was bought by Kant. What I would like to know, or more precisely to discover for myself, is who bought the other three?

I shall never know that. I shall never know how many of Shakespeare's pentameters have feminine endings, or why it matters (if it does); I shall never even know whether Dr Rowse is the Rival Poet

or the Lovely Boy. I shall never read all, or even any, of the plays of Lope de Vega. I shall never write the comprehensive study of the changing length of men's neckties between 1898 and 1968, I shall never edit the final, definitive edition, all cruces resolved, of Menander, Colley Cibber, Langland or the man who writes the verses for Raphael Tuck Christmas cards. But if I had thought of it first, I could have written *Voltaire's Marginalia on the Pages of Rousseau*, and now I can't.

But I can salute Mr Havens for doing so. You may think, from my tone, that I am mocking him, but I assure you that I am not. Scholarship is an admirable profession, whatever it issues in, and I believe that any work written or conceivable is of interest to somebody other than the author, even Swedenborg's *Arcania Caelestia*. Certainly no one can say that Mr Havens's book is of no interest. Professor Cranston found it useful for his own synoptic view of Rousseau for a start. Besides, the thought of it opens up all sorts of possibilities. *The Marginalia of F. R. Leavis on the Pages of His Supposed Enemies*, for instance, would probably fill a shelf, and the list of the said enemies, even unannotated, a pretty hefty volume. And surely someone who knows him well must be writing in the margins of the *Collected Works of Roy Hattersley*, with careful instructions about posthumous publication.

My old tutor, still happily with us (I went to his eighty-sixth birthday party only a few months ago), was once conducting a seminar at which I was present. Someone came to a rather too broad conclusion, whereupon the Prof recalled a promising student he had had some years before, who had expressed a wish to work for a doctorate. And had he an idea of what subject he would choose? Yes, he had: "The influence of the eighteenth century on the nineteenth." I would not want to write that book; but I shall never cease to mourn the fact that Mr Havens beat me to *Voltaire's Marginalia on the Pages of Rousseau*.

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### U or non-U? John Witherow tells of the boat that failed to float

## That sinking feeling



Mr Miklos: anybody seen this U-boat lately?

Amid all the fuss over the Hitler diaries last year it was easy to miss another Second World War story - the case of the Disappearing U-boat. It was a yarn that would otherwise have been unequalled for intrigue and romance. One almost suspected the hand of Desmond Bagley or Hammond Innes behind it.

The story had all the elements of a thundering good read, involving Nazi bullion, missing works of art looted from the museums and castles of Europe, the escape of Hitler's henchmen to South America in curiously designed U-boats, secret societies of former submarine commanders and a desert island.

Unlike the Hitler diaries, however, which required the visit of an eminent historian to a Swiss bank vault, checking the location of the submarine meant that someone had to go and drive down to it. The story was to cost Thames Television tens of thousands of pounds.

The man who appeared in London peddling this tale was a Mr Roger Miklos, an angular and loquacious American who had lived on this hidden treasure-house in the Caribbean and wished to finance an expedition to salvage it and his reputation.

Never one to underestimate his case, Mr Miklos, who disconcertingly referred to the vessel as an "oak" boat, said the first person to enter the submarine once it was raised would rival Howard Carter's experience when he stepped into Tutankhamun's tomb.

Little was known about Mr Miklos. In the words of one of the people he approached he was a "fortunate-looking", but he was a

persuasive speaker who had an almost messianic fervour about the U-boat. He said he had briefly been a US "cop" but had given that up to start a salvage company called Nomad Treasure Seekers.

With the aid of his girlfriend, who soon became known as Little Miss Echo for repeating many of his ideas, he acquired a lot of knowledge about the Nazi period, and the building of U-boats.

Mr Miklos believed in starting at the top. Convinced that the 250ft vessel was packed with missing paintings by Rubens and Giotto, he approached Sir Roy Strong, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, for a list of people who might be interested in backing or publicizing the venture.

Sir Roy obliged and this took Mr Miklos to the penthouse flat of Mr Jeffrey Archer, the former MP and now bestselling author. "It was the week of the Hitler diaries," Mr Archer recalled. "I don't think anyone would have had the nerve to try it on at the same time. It was a fascinating, romantic story and I believed it. But then, I am a gullible person."

Mr Archer was not the only believer. Mr Miklos had completed research in West Germany and could "prove" the vessel was one of nine such craft built by Goering to highlight it out of Germany at the end of the war.

He produced drawings of the U-boat and said it lay in 80ft of water and was hidden from prying eyes by a reef and breaking foam. It was of the VII-C class, with modified tail fins and a conning tower positioned well forward of mid-ship. This was linked to the bow by a serrated

"ripping bar", giving the vessel the look of a defunct kitchen utensil. On the hull, seen by Mr Miklos's own begoggled eyes, was a brass plaque saying in German: "Hamburg, Germany, Commissioned 1944."

The only problem was an absence of photographs. Mr Miklos had of course taken some of the craft but he had been forced to throw them overboard when he became involved in a dispute with island authorities.

So convincing was Mr Miklos that his account was published in *The Times* and *Daily Mirror* and relayed to ITN's *News at Ten* audience of nine million. It was a mere coincidence that this took place a few days before the West German government denounced the Hitler diaries as forgeries.

When he heard this news Mr Miklos just shook his head and muttered "crazy guys", presumably in reference to anyone who could try such a preposterous trick.

Meanwhile Thames Television, after initial scepticism, decided to make further inquiries. Exclusive film rights, they realized, would be worth huge sums of money. Their checks seemed to add credibility to Mr Miklos's account. Even the US State Department said he could be trusted.

Naturally cautious of another hoax, Thames formed a consortium but gave Mr Miklos no money in advance - only accommodation and a small living allowance.

He settled in a basement flat in London where he built models, including one of the U-boat, controlled by radio. This was taken to the diving pool at Hammersmith Baths where Thames filmed it

submerging. The model submarine refused to reemerge but this was not seen as a portent for the real salvage operation.

The rest of the story over the next few months is one of disillusionment. At great expense, Thames sent a film crew to West Germany where they diligently interviewed experts on U-boats and the history of the period. All of them chuckled when they saw Mr Miklos's drawings and said no such vessels ever existed.

Mr Jack Saltman, a producer for TV Eye, had meanwhile flown to the Turks and Caicos islands to dive down to the submarine. This, said Mr Miklos, would be final proof and silence the doubts of the so-called experts.

However, when he reached the spot where Mr Miklos said he had located the U-boat Mr Saltman's heart "sank like a stone." There were no cliffs, no breakers and no surf. And the water was only 30ft deep instead of 80ft.

After searching the area for four days and discovering little more than sea urchins, Mr Saltman returned to London for the denouement. Mr Miklos did have some explanations: he said the submarine could have been towed out to sea and sunk; that currents had shifted it; or that the island authorities had blown up the cliffs to disguise its true position.

Mr Saltman is now philosophical about the episode. "We were always sceptical," he says. "But we kept saying 'Where's the sting? And there wasn't one.'"

Little more has been seen of Mr Miklos since last summer. Friends in Hamburg say they have heard nothing from him for months.

## A Dutch treat for English writers

by Nicholas Shakespeare

On one day out of about every ten, when the wind blows in the right direction, the Dutch can receive BBC 2. The wind was blowing, appropriately enough, on the night of the Booker Prize dinner. Whatever its English audience thought of it, *Bookmark's* coverage of that literary feast went down like a treat in Amsterdam.

"Holland, that scarce deserves the name of land"

"As but the off-scouring of the British sand."

was how Andrew Marvell saw the Dutch nation 300 years ago. Today, the only people who might agree with him are British publishers for whom that watery land is the biggest single market in Europe.

Last year, astonishingly for a population of 14 million, the Dutch bought one and a quarter million paperback books from Britain. As Desmond Clark, former director of the Book Marketing Council, put it: "For selling purposes we actually see Holland as an area of the UK."

It is not only the mass market imprints which do well. To the publishers Faber & Faber, the country accounts for more than 18 per cent of their European turnover.

On the day the Nobel Prize for literature was announced they received orders from The Netherlands for 3,000 copies of Golding's work.

The Booker short list is also proving extremely popular. In fact, so insatiable is the appetite for English fiction in the original that several houses which specialise in Dutch language translations are finding it hard to keep up. After translating five of his works, the house of Meulenhoff, for instance, has had to stop publishing Piers Paul Read in Dutch because too many people are happy to read him in an English paperback edition at a lower price.

The Dutch have been multilingual for centuries. One of Holland's two main book importers told me: "We adapt very quickly." Until 1940, French and German were spoken before English. The war drove us into each other's arms. After it, everyone learnt English first, helped by the revolution in British and American paperbacks which were much less expensive than their often inferior Dutch translations. "Now

it's our second language. Every Dutchman mutilates it a lot, but he thinks he has to master it."

Snobbery made its contribution, too. A large number of well-educated, well-travelled colonials returned home and complained of an atmosphere that was too Calvinist, and gloomy. Instead of morbid Dutch introspection and philosophizing for which you have only to read Martin Hart's recently translated novel *Reveries of Bad Tidings* they wanted good old Anglo-Saxon plot.

"Very often I have customers coming in to ask for some book they have seen reviewed in your press," said Jan Meng of Amsterdam's Athenaeum Boekhandel. "For example, I sold 50 copies in hardback of James Fenimore's *The Memory of War* and one more copy than Dillon's of the Sassoon diaries."

Jan Meng's customers don't have to rely on our Sunday papers. Reviews of British fiction appear at some length in the Dutch press, often simultaneously to its publi-

cation in Britain. And the public libraries have a reviewing service (PRISMA) which results in the purchase each year of 600 British and American titles. PRISMA's reviews of Maggie Gee's novel *The Burning Book* elicited orders for 170 copies which, according to her English publisher, "is outstanding for a hardback novel by an unknown writer."

The Dutch are so shamelessly tuned into us that they often make discoveries of their own. After reading a story of his in *Time Out* and before he had an English publisher, Jaco Groot spotted Ian McEwan and printed *Cocker at the Theatre* in Amsterdam. The cartoonist Glen Baxter is another feather in Groot's cap. He owns the world rights to Baxter's *Atlas* having sold it to five countries - and the English rights to Jonathan Cape. His most recent export to England is the calendar format of jokes, riddles and stories which has become famous as *Not 1982* and subsequently *Not 1983*. It was originally based on a Dutch television comedy show which, unlike the Booker Prize, has not yet had a fair enough wind to reach these shores.

Woodrow Wyatt

## Farewell, bonny gentleman

There are still some gentlemen - if I may dare resurrect this almost forgotten word once understood by everyone - among Tory MPs, but not many. By a politician who is a gentleman I mean someone who is there mainly from love of his country and of the political game, who eschews dirty tricks and says what he says because he thinks it is right and does not care whether he wins or loses favour thereby. That marks him out to the foolish as eccentric when his views do not accord with his party's safe, conventional approach.

I do not like the present ascendancy on the Tory benches of the vulgar, brash, pushy type of executives who look as though they were in it for nothing but preferment and the money and are always asking for higher pay for work their predecessors were happy to do for a pittance. There is an insufficient view of Tory MPs who value literature, art, and have a wider understanding of what makes a civilized life.

With the death of Sir Hugh Fraser on Wednesday, one more of the diminishing band of Tory MPs who are gentlemen in the broadest sense has gone. The party will be that much less acceptable to those who believe there is more to a full and happy existence than making money, important though that may be.

Hugh Fraser was one of my dearest friends. He never had much money but enough to do most of the things he wanted with panache and generosity. He got his sense of duty from a long line of Highland chiefs. Lords Lovat since 1431, and he was as dashingly romantic as any of them. The independence they claimed was in his blood.

He was politically ambitious when I first met him. He wanted to be president of the Oxford Union and, doubtless prime minister. For a time he was a prime mover in an undergraduate weekly which I edited. Our eclecticism was so great that we began by campaigning for the election of Philip Toynbee, the first communist president of the Oxford Union. Then we turned to Hugh's election campaign, which though successful was conducted more in fun than in seriousness.

I took to the tall, handsome Highlander who never stopped laughing and shouting. He had the Cavalier spirit of a Jacobite rebel fighting for Bonnie Prince Charlie. Not long after I met him I was startled in the National Portrait Gallery to see a face remarkably like Hugh's. It was the twelfth Lord Lovat, who was beheaded after the 1745 Culloden disaster. He was treacherous and tricky, which Hugh never was; but both were brave and both were dignified in adversity.

Enoch Powell

## America, stranger on the war-torn shores

History repeats itself. History does not repeat itself. Between those poles the historian's speculation swings, first one way, then the other. History is not a predictive science: it cannot read off, from a fixed pattern of recurrences or from a series of laws, the events of the future. But history as an interpretative art can alert us to resemblances and tendencies and thus school us to distinguish between the probable and the improbable.

The world, especially in America, have attempted to shape the course of things in the Levant would have been profited, and chastened, by a study of its history in the three centuries before our era. Whether the reasons are preponderantly geographical or ethnographic, the precision with which the past reproduces itself in that area is so striking that one seems to need only to alter the names of the actors who play preordained parts in a repetitious drama.

Of the segments into which the breathlessly created empire of Alexander the Great divided after his death in 323 BC, two dynasties emerged in the Levant, bearing the names of Macedonian generals. There were the Ptolemies in Egypt, with their new capital at Alexandria, who gradually acquired the mantle of the Pharaohs. To the north of them, in the so-called "fertile crescent" which stretches from the Mediterranean in Syria to the Persian Gulf in Mesopotamia, were the Seleucids with their capitals at Antioch and Babylon.

There two powers entered effortlessly into the mutual rivalry of the empires which had gone before them; and the jousting field was bound to be none other than Palestine, where a religious state had been founded by exiles returned from captivity - not as it happened that time, German or Russia, but Babylonian.

Both the Ptolemies and the Seleucids were subject to natural limitations. Egypt was not so constituted or so situated as to be the seat of an extensive empire in Asia. Syria (that was the name of the Seleucids' dominion) had other preoccupations besides its Palestinian flank.

There was a resurgence of (dare one say "Arab nationalism"?) "Iraqi nationalism" to the East - a diversion of attention which enforced on Syria a debilitating split between its Mediterranean and its Mesopotamian centres. There were also to be coped with on the west the Greek successor states in Anatolia and Greece itself.

Thus the scene was set for the Palestinian drama out of whose crucible World Jewry and Christianity were alike to emerge. In the course of their struggle with Egypt, the Seleucids had endeavoured to bring about a lasting military and

At the time of his divorce Hugh was very sad but he stuck to his faith in Roman Catholicism. I was with him in his cathedral when he prayed for his wife. But he was not a fanatical Roman Catholic. He cheerfully agreed that Pope Clement VII was a corrupt ruffian who had no moral authority to refuse Henry VIII his divorce. As Clement was himself guilty of much worse, and that the divorce of the Catholic church into an English and a Roman one was as much the Pope's fault as Henry's. He revered the piece of the true cross he always wore but was only amused when I suggested it more probably a piece of an old kitchen table.

He tended to treat his religion with a flourish. He came to a dinner party in London and on introducing him to one of the guests I said, "She is a Corsini princess who has a page and a saint in her family." "Hoary", Hugh cried and with an extravagant wave knelt down in front of her. "I must kiss your ring."

Friends and jolly jokes were more important to him than success in politics. Once we went round the Uffizi Gallery in Florence. "Don't think that looks quite right," I said pointing at a Botticelli. "You're a world famous art expert and you say it's a fake?" Hugh roared. A large party of tourists listened astonished. We examined some 20 more pictures.

I pronounced a third of them fakes which information was relayed in Hugh's stentorian voice to our growing following of tourists. Attendees came up, drawn to the commotion. We left hastily, leaving the attendants to notify the crowd with the assurance that other experts thought the pictures genuine.

I suppose neither of us stopped being undergraduates. In Hugh's case his perpetual readiness for a prank was much of his charm and gaiety.

Hugh felt he was a failure in politics. He was an under-secretary of state for 14 years and Secretary of State for Air for two. He disdained to conform merely to get higher office. He adopted causes such as Biafra and Zionism because they appealed to his gallantry and he advocated conscription because he believed in inculcating the ideal of service to one's country.

His hopes were for a Cabinet post, but he was not a failure. He gave a richer quality to the Conservative Party, which enhanced its standing with the public. It badly needs more free-ranging, intelligent (he won an Exhibition to Balliol), socially secure gentleman MPs like Hugh Fraser and fewer of the humourless, pompous, narrowly self-regarding, socially destabilized, colourless mediocrities, with no real feel for the people, who now clutter the Tory benches.

Enoch Powell

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## A CONFLICT WE DO NOT NEED

Thwarted in Lebanon, stymied by the Arab-Israeli conflict, increasingly anxious about the war in the Persian Gulf, the West can now less than ever afford a clash between two Nato allies in the Aegean or the eastern Mediterranean. There must have been serious alarm, therefore, in Western chancelleries at the news that Greek forces had been put on alert following an incident between Greek and Turkish warships off Samothrace on Thursday.

Was this, as Mr Papandreu said yesterday, a "deliberate and indicative act" on Turkey's part? The Turks indignantly deny it. According to their version their ships did not fire either at the Greek destroyer *Panthir* or at Greek fishing boats, as Greece alleged. They were firing in the other direction, as part of a training exercise of which Greece had been given advance notice, and were using dummy shells.

The Greek version is that the training exercise had been completed and that the five Turkish destroyers were already moving out of their area when they opened fire, over their shoulder as it were. In any event no ship was hit, and no one was hurt.

The Turkish government seems anxious to minimise the incident. It avoided making any comment for twelve hours, and then the prime minister, Mr Turgut Ozal, reiterated the offer of friendship with Greece which he made on taking office three months ago. It is true he also said that Turkey would not give up her "rights" in the Aegean. Turkey, it will be remembered, lays claim to the economic resources of the sea up to a median line between the Greek

and Turkish mainlands, which would mean that the Greek islands of the eastern Aegean were surrounded by a Turkish sea.

It is no secret that Greece is unhappy about the level of military aid for Turkey proposed by President Reagan; and one of the first reactions of the Greek foreign ministry was to summon the American chargé d'affaires in Athens and tell him that US aid had made Turkey "impertinent". Greece's friends in the House of Representatives are struggling, as usual, to impose a "seven-to-ten ratio" on US aid to Greece and Turkey, and the Greek government may have felt they could do with some help.

But, however artificial, the incident does draw attention to the underlying tension which persists between Greece and Turkey, on the Aegean issue and more especially over Cyprus. The previous day Turkey's national assembly had passed a unanimous resolution warning Greece against "adventures" in either theatre. This alluded to rumours that Greece might be planning, either to double her present six-mile territorial water limit in the Aegean (effectively turning it into a Greek lake) or to send troops to Cyprus, where Turkey is determined to maintain what she euphemistically calls the present "balance" of forces.

Serious talks about the Cyprus issue have indeed been going on in Athens this week between Mr Papandreu and President Spyros Kyprianou, with, apparently, a certain emphasis on the military aspect. No decision to send Greek troops was taken, and it may not even have been

seriously considered, for both Greeks and Greek Cypriots are well aware that any such decision would dangerously raise tensions in the island and would be liable to provoke some Turkish reaction.

The Greek Cypriots, perhaps understandably, feel insecure, given the presence of 17,500 Turkish troops in the island and Turkish determination to hold the territory taken by force in 1974. To an impartial outsider there is no reason to suppose that Turkey has any need or desire to expand that territory, but Greek Cypriots have difficulty in accepting that. The danger is that any military preparations they make to resist a new Turkish move might actually provide Turkey with a motive to undertake it. Certainly the Turks would be anxious to prevent anything that looked like making southern Cyprus a Greek military base.

Only the abysmal lack of progress towards a political solution obliges one to ponder on such gloomy military eventualities. The flicker of international interest aroused by the Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence last November has already subsided. The world seems all too predictably to have swallowed this latest fait accompli (even if only Brunei has so far joined Turkey in recognizing the new state), and President Kyprianou's proposals submitted to the UN Secretary-General in January - the most generous yet made from the Greek Cypriot side - remain unanswered. In these circumstances Greek and Greek Cypriot frustration at the ever-increasing Western military aid to Turkey is understandable.

## TAPPING WITH CARE

The public has two watchdogs to prevent the misuse of telephone tapping by M15, the police and the Customs and Excise. The first check is the Home Secretary who exercises a power derived from the Royal Prerogative. A warrant signed by Mr Brittan is needed before the spools can begin to turn. The second check is Lord Bridge of Harwich, a respected Lord who is chairman of the Security Commission. His task is to go periodically to the Home Secretary's tapping file to pick random cases, tracing them back to the desk officer in the agency requesting the tap and forward to the point at which transcripts and tapes are consigned to the secret waste.

Last month, to the Government's chagrin, the House of Lords decided this was not enough. Ministerial discomfiture could well be increased later this year when the case of Mr James Malone, an antiquities dealer from Dorset, reaches its final stages at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg (the Government has admitted that Mr Malone's phone was tapped as part of an investigation into stolen property). If Mr Malone's claim that the British government violated his human rights under the European Convention is upheld, the Home Office could be forced to enshrine controls and safeguards in statutory form. A coalition of Labour, Alliance and cross-bench peers jumped the Strasbourg gun and attempted to do just that on

February 21 when they inserted an amendment into the Telecommunications Bill during its committee stage against the Government's wishes.

The amendment was carefully framed. It simply lifted the six internal safeguards already applied to tapping as laid down by the Diplock Report of 1981 and placed them in the Bill, if the measure is not amended once more in the Commons the safeguards will possess the force of law. The Government's business managers are waiting to see what other changes the Lords might try to make to the Bill before deciding how to proceed.

In the Lords debate, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Advocate, naturally stood by the six safeguards. Before authorizing a tap, the Home Secretary must be satisfied that it would assist in the detection of a serious offence, that normal investigatory methods have failed or are unlikely to succeed, that there is good reason to believe a tap would result in a conviction, that tapping ceases as soon as the original purpose has been achieved, that all irrelevant by-products of taps are swiftly destroyed, and that the relevant material is given the narrowest possible circulation. But Lord Mackay drew the line at drawing the judiciary into the apparatus of safeguards.

Peers backing the amendment were able to cite in their support Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chan-

cellor of the Chancery Division, who at an earlier stage in the Malone case, declared, the difficulties of legislating on telephone tapping "ought not to prove insuperable". The Lord Advocate, however, was concerned that in any court case arising from such legislation, even if the trial was held in camera the defendant might learn "the nature of the information upon which the warrant was based, or perhaps even more important the source of that information". But it should not be beyond the ability of the Lord Chancellor's Department to design a procedure whereby such details could be communicated to the judge and kept from the person whose telephone was tapped.

There are substantial reasons for stiffening existing safeguards with the power of statute. The forces of law and order have been greatly strengthened in recent years in this area by advances in micro-electronics. It is now much easier and cheaper to conduct surveillance on a large scale. The temptation must be resisted to indulge in tapping which is not justified by a strict interpretation of the six Diplock conditions. There is some evidence from released Cabinet papers that there have been cases in the past when this has happened, and it must not happen today. Embedding the six criteria in statute would increase the incentives for restraint. The Government should leave the Lords amendment in place.

## MARSHAL USTINOV IN INDIA

The Soviet delegation which has just ended a six-day visit to India has emphasized how strongly Moscow wishes to develop closer relations with that country, especially in military matters. Headed by the Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov, the party included two of his deputy ministers, Admiral Gorskov, the naval commander-in-chief, and Army General Shabanov, as well as first deputy chief of the general staff, Marshal Akhromeev.

With the intention of discouraging India from concluding further military agreements with Western countries, the USSR is prepared to supply some of the most sophisticated weaponry used by the Soviet armed forces. The MiG-27 fighter and T-72 tank are already produced under licence in Indian factories. Moscow is making more advanced models available to match the F-16s supplied by the United States to Pakistan, hoping that India will regard additional purchases of the French Mirage 2000 as unnecessary.

India is of particular strategic importance to Moscow because of the war in Afghanistan, continuing strains in relations with China, and the build-up of US naval power in the Indian Ocean. The USSR concluded a Friendship Treaty with India in August 1971 and backed India in the Indo-Pakistan conflict while China and the USA supported

Pakistan. Moscow applied its votes in the UN Security Council to help India, and undertakes in the Treaty to refrain from assisting any country with which India is in conflict. Trying to reduce Pakistan's support for the Afghan resistance, the Kremlin is pursuing a dual policy of threats and promises; military aid for India provides a useful way of applying pressure.

A year ago the Indian Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi succeeded Fidel Castro as chairman of the non-aligned movement, and in January India took its seat in the UN Security Council. Moscow greatly values India's role in international affairs, since even a reluctance publicly to condemn outright acts of Soviet aggression is helpful. Speaking in New Delhi, Marshal Ustinov, the first member of the Politburo to travel abroad since the change in the Kremlin leadership, launched into a tirade against US policy in various parts of the world, even blaming the United States for the "undeclared war against Afghanistan". He attacked Washington for bringing mankind "ever closer to the nuclear abyss" and accused the USA of dangerously expanding its military presence in the Indian Ocean and neighbouring states.

It is no benefit to India's status as a leader of the non-

aligned movement that so little is done to set the record straight. The head of the Indian foreign ministry section dealing with the non-aligned movement, has expressed satisfaction at the "Solidarity with the movement which is traditionally demonstrated by the socialist countries". Less in evidence are criticisms by the Indian leadership of Moscow's empire-building which has subjugated more than a hundred nations in the USSR, Eastern Europe and Afghanistan. On the contrary Washington is denounced while the USSR is occasionally held up as an example for India to follow in its economic development, despite all the suffering of the Stalin decades.

The USSR is India's major trading partner; defence equipment and oil are the main Soviet exports, while the Soviet Union, with its chronic shortage of consumer goods, welcomes Indian cotton fabric, knitwear, detergents, cosmetics and rope. The USSR provided machinery for the Bhilai and Bokaro steel plants and cooperation in developing India's fuel and power industries is also important. Yet despite currency advantages and low-interest offers from Moscow, India is now turning to Western countries for its advanced technology, and only by increasing supplies of Soviet military equipment can the imbalance in trade be reduced.

## Making best use of doctors

From Dr H. W. K. Acheson

Sir, In his discussion of general practice manpower (feature, March 7) Nicholas Timmins places insufficient emphasis upon the economic advantages of transferring routine follow-up care from hospital to general practice, where the cost of each patient-doctor contact is less, and the benefits to be derived from greater involvement by general practitioners in preventive medicine and health education aimed at reducing preventable illness.

Both would involve more work for general practitioners, which could be balanced by a reduction in average list size, which, in turn, would require more general practitioners.

The resultant effect in financial terms would not necessarily be greater, because although preventive medicine and health education are time-consuming they are cheaper than treating established preventable illness. Workload would remain roughly the same.

As for the retirement age of general practitioners, retirement at 65 would benefit both doctors and patients and should be the first aim. Medical manpower levels should be calculated with these objectives in mind.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, H. W. K. ACHESON, University of Manchester, Department of General Practice, Rushmore Health Centre, Walmsley Street, Manchester, March 7.

## Royal broadcasts

From Mr Humphry J. F. Crum Ewing

Sir, The first Christmas broadcast by the Sovereign was that made by George V in 1932. The occasion was the opening of the "Empire" service of the BBC. It took place in the immediate aftermath of the Statute of Westminster (1931) which opened up the relationship between the United Kingdom and the other parts of the Empire and confirmed the separate status of the Dominion prime ministers to the King with "advice" on matters touching particular dominions.

It is apparent from the record (Nicholson, *King George V: Reith Diaries*) that the arrangements for the 1932 broadcast were made between the BBC and the King's private secretary (Sir C. Wigram) and that the fact that the King should make a broadcast was cleared with the British Prime Minister (Ramsay MacDonald).

In that the broadcast was made on the Empire service it will be apparent that the fact that the King would make that broadcast, effectively in "their" dominions, was recognized, in advance, by the Dominion prime ministers. Equally it would appear that, even at a time when the question of advice to the Sovereign on his role in the Dominions was an intensely felt issue, there was no thought on the part of Dominion prime ministers, or any of them, that they should advise on the substance of the speech.

When the second broadcast was made the following year the King consulted the Archbishop of Canterbury (and the Prime Minister of Britain) about what he might say, but again it is apparent that such advice was informal and personal rather than ministerial.

The circumstances surrounding the first broadcast, and therefore the precedents which they established for constitutional purposes, are thus quite clear. They support entirely Lord Blake's disquisition (letters, February 20 and 27) on the constitutional status of the Queen's Christmas broadcast and serve to show Mr Enoch Powell's (feature, January 26; letter, February 23) as being built on sand.

Yours faithfully, HUMPHRY CRUM EWING, 62 Ber Street, Reading, Berkshire, March 1.

## Rates levy on moorings

From Mr John Chapman

Sir, Mr R. A. S. Sampson complains (March 6) of having to act as unpaid rate collector for rates of moorings. As owner, he already collects the rent. All he will have to do to fulfil the proposed requirements of the Rates Bill is to charge a rent inclusive of rates - still only one sum to collect.

To suggest that this small change will lead to owners parting with the ownership of their valuable river banks with all the resultant costs involved is unreal, to say the least.

Yours faithfully, JOHN CHAPMAN, 53 The Avenue, Gravesend, Kent, March 6.

## Conduct unbecoming

From Mr J. K. Quick

Sir, Have you ever considered asking your readers which single action in their opinion typifies conduct unbecoming (or becoming) a gentleman?

For myself, albeit a lifelong pipe-smoker, I cannot abide the man (surely no gentleman) who lights a cigar in any room where people are still eating. But if you are a pedestrian floundering felloe-deep on muddy pavements, the true gentleman is the motorist who dips his headlights for you. You will find only one in a hundred, but he is more than a gentleman: he is a knight of the road.

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN QUICK, The Mews, Brookridge, Dollar, Clackmannanshire, February 29.

## Prospects for progress in El Salvador

From Dr Victor Bulmer-Thomas

Sir, Malcolm's Deas's comments (feature March 3) on the preference of the press for reporting the deeds of guerrilla movements in Latin America rather than their words are particularly apposite. At the end of January the revolutionary movement in El Salvador (FDR-FMLN) published a major set of political proposals which involve the establishment of a broadly-based provisional government leading to the preparation and holding of general elections in which all parties other than the extreme right-wing ARENA would be free to participate.

The previous unwillingness of the FDR-FMLN to participate in elections has always been a stumbling block in the debate over negotiations with the guerrillas and was a major reason why the Kissinger commission rejected power-sharing as a viable option. It is therefore appropriate that this new initiative by the FDR-FMLN be given serious consideration.

The failure to report adequately the political programme of the FDR-FMLN is all the more unfortunate because the revolutionary movement in El Salvador is essentially an uneasy alliance between Social Democrats, who do the talking, and Marxists, who do the fighting, although there are important differences within as well as between both groups.

Those who favour a military solution in El Salvador shift the balance of power within the FDR-FMLN in favour of the Marxist-Leninist wing, a negotiated solution leading to free and fair elections, on

the other hand, would strengthen the hand of the Social Democrats.

Elections involving the FDR-FMLN, as well as centre and right-wing parties, would be a worthy occasion for the dispatch of observers by the British Government. The same cannot be said for the presidential elections scheduled for the end of this month. It must surely be the height of irresponsibility to insist on elections, whose most probable winner (Roberto d'Abuisson) is committed to a military solution and a policy of non-negotiation with the FDR-FMLN.

It may be argued that the opposition is not serious about elections, knowing that it is unlikely to win a clear majority in any contest, but it is difficult to see how their intentions can be tested until the negotiating process has started.

It may also be argued that the preconditions set for elections by the FDR-FMLN (including a purge of the armed forces) are unrealistic; some of these preconditions, however, are presumably negotiable and the opposition would seriously tarnish its international image if it broke off negotiations without good cause.

The achievement of a negotiated solution should therefore receive the highest priority in 1984 and it is most unfortunate that the forthcoming presidential elections could well prove a serious obstacle to that goal.

Yours faithfully, VICTOR BULMER-THOMAS, Queen Mary College, Department of Economics, Mile End Road, E1, March 6.

## Changes in YTS

From Mr Nicholas Lyell, QC, MP for Bedfordshire, Mid (Conservative)

Sir, Those who were worried, as I was, by Canon Eric James's letter (March 3) about alleged "Government recent cuts to its Youth Training Scheme" following his weekend Merseyside visit may be relieved to know that he has thoroughly misunderstood the position.

The changes to the scheme arise quite simply from the fact that some 3,700 of the 6,100 Mode B1 places in the scheme for National Service and Out (provided by a local authority, colleges of education and voluntary organisations, etc) have been taken up by young people.

Each place left vacant costs about £2,000 - to train nobody. Thus, next year the plan is only to provide 4,800 places, believed to be a better match to a slightly increased demand. The intention remains that every young person who seeks a place should get one.

Nationally, the position is that of 90,000 Mode B1 approved places only 55,000 are currently occupied, meaning that up to £70m has had to be spent on 35,000 empty places.

Canon James will surely agree that this money could be so much better spent elsewhere, not least on other schemes to help the unemployed, both young and old, once they have been developed.

The Archbishop's Commission on Urban Priority Areas may well have useful proposals to make on this very subject when it does report in 1985, but one will have more confidence in it if those connected with its work, having listened to one side only, can refrain from rushing into print to beat the Government and the MSC over the head with the wrong end of the stick.

Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS LYLLE, House of Commons, March 6.

## Value of church society

From Mr Adrian Barlow

Sir, Clifford Longley's interesting article, "The ecclesiastical revolution" (February 27), suggests that the ecclesiologists of 1839 were concerned only with "bricks and mortar" and have nothing to say to the new ecclesiology.

It is true that the Ecclesiological Society was founded in Cambridge for the study of church architecture; but it is also surely true that its enormous influence in the Victorian era can be attributed to its awareness of one fundamental need, to find the most dynamic context in which to present the body of Christ (i.e., the sacrament of the Eucharist) to the body of Christ (i.e., the individuals who make up the congregations which are the Church).

In that respect I suggest that "the relationship between the individual and the Church" was as much on the

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Yours faithfully, RICHARD O'BRIEN, Chairman, Archbishop's Commission on Urban Priority Areas, 24 Argyl Road, W8, February 28.

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## Burden of VAT on charities

From the Director of the North of England Zoological Society

Sir, I write as the director of an educational charity whose expenses are largely covered by what it manages to earn from its visiting public. It pays about £300,000 per year directly and indirectly to the Exchequer as VAT and it just about manages to "wipe its face".

If it was not so burdened by VAT it would be able to rival its sister institutions elsewhere in the world, almost all of whom receive considerable national support, in the achievement of its educational and conservation aims.

There seem to be two most frequently voiced objections to relieving charities of VAT. They are that it would increase the burden elsewhere and that, as some charities are more charitable than others, the others do not deserve it and it would be invidious to have to make the distinction.

The first argument may be true, though rapid recycling of the money surely gives the Exchequer a second bite at the cherry. The second argument is nonsense. If, as a nation, we feel some charities should not be charities we can redefine what we mean by a "charity".

This nation has recognised that some things people want to do to each other and for each other (and that includes running good zoological gardens) are such as to be described as charitable. Until the advent of VAT, which at the end of the day is just another form of taxation, we did not impose major tax obligations on our registered charities.

Most of our European partners, who had VAT well before we did, even now do not tax their charities and none of them tax their serious intended zoological gardens. Let us follow suit.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL BRAMBELL, Director, North of England Zoological Society, Zoological Gardens, Chester, March 6.

## The censor's view

From Mrs Norah Crouzet

Sir, As the "sheltered, upper class spinster in her thirties" (twenties actually) I was amused to read in the article on film censorship (March 2) what Colonel Henshaw and I had written 50 years ago. However, the article implied that he and I as script readers and film examiners were responsible for deciding what might or might not be seen by the general public, which was not the case at all.

The British Board of Film Censors was set up and paid for by the film industry, and the president of the board, in cooperation with the industry, laid down rules on what was or was not permissible which, as examiners, we had to follow.

Naturally such guiding principles have changed considerably over 50 years in accordance with the changed world in which we now live and it is interesting, in the light of this archival material, to see how great a change there has been.

Yours faithfully, NORAH CROUZET (née Shortt), 1 Tannery Close, Tenterden, Kent, March 4.

## Tests of experience

From Mr Robert Hicks, MP for Cornwall South East (Conservative)

Sir, Irrespective of all the considerations mentioned by your cricket correspondent (February 28) in his analysis of the recent England tour of New Zealand it should not have come as such a surprise that our cricketers lost a Test series in that country for the first time.

Recent history of Test series, since 1979-80, confirms that only the West Indies have won a rubber away from home. It is true that England in this period won two single Tests, namely the Golden Jubilee Test in India in 1980 and the inaugural Test in Colombo against Sri Lanka, as Australia did also in their single Test 12 months later. Every other series, however, not featuring the West Indies has either been won by the host country or drawn.

It is also interesting and in this context significant to recall that the last occasion the West Indies lost was in New Zealand in 1979-80, when the home country won 1-0 in the three-Test series.

Incidentally seven of the New Zealanders then led as now by Geoffrey Howarth, who played in the recent decisive Christchurch Test, were also members of the successful side against the West Indies at Dunedin. On this latter occasion a certain Richard Hadlee returned marked figures of 11-102.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT HICKS, House of Commons, March 5.

## By return of post

From Mrs P. H. W. Bristow

Sir, Earlier this week my eight-year-old daughter entered the Post Office's letter-writing competition, carefully writing out her entry, addressing the envelope to a Freepost address and adding her full name and address on the back of the envelope (a requirement of the competition) - with "from" underlined three times.

This morning, through our letter-box, came our daughter's entry. Yours faithfully, GILLIAN BRISTOW, The Cottage, 12 Moorend Rd, Yardley Gobion, Towcester, Northamptonshire, March 2.







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Family Life: The only child; Bridge; Chess; Prize crossword: Angling; Country Diary; Collecting and The Week Ahead

Dukes and princes once paid a fortune for them; Victorian explorers went to the ends of the earth in search of them.

Tony Samstag looks at the flower of kings

## Crowning glory of orchids

Confucius, as usual, got there first and got it right: his is the first known reference to orchids, which he described as bearing "the king's fragrance"; and subsequent Chinese and Japanese scholars mention their purity, grace and fragrance. Theophrastus, a contemporary of Aristotle and the first Westerner to describe them, named the species *orchis*.

Translation from the Greek yields "testicles", a reference to the characteristic shape of the bulbs of the Mediterranean species first studied. These took their place among hundreds of other plants in the *Materia Medica* of the Greek herbalists, whose Doctrine of Signatures insisted on linking medical properties to form and appearance. Thus one of the world's largest families of flowering plants—comprising about 1,000 genera and 20,000 species—entered our literature as a spurious tonic for virility and fertility.

In fact, the only species of orchid commercially significant for its practical use is vanilla. The others may drive men mad, but whatever value they possess is strictly a function of their beauty and rarity.

That orchids do drive men—and women—mad is indisputable. It is an exclusive band of fanatics: the Orchid Society of Great Britain boasts a mere 1,400 members, and Mr Leslie Bowen, its secretary, reckons that fewer than 5,000 growers in this country would qualify by his rather severe criteria as "enthusiasts". Britain is, however, the orchid centre of the world, and its exports supply an international fellowship.

Orchids exist in every region of the globe except the Antarctic, but it is by and large the tropical and subtropical species that have become the objects of obsession. In this country, that obsession reached its peak in the days of the great Victorian explorations. Orchid-hunters became a special breed of adventurer; Frederick Sander, the most famous of his day, employed a small army of collectors whose feats of derring-do in moist and overgrown corners of the known and unknown world were the stuff of legend.

By the turn of the century British collectors were importing as many as 30,000 examples of a single species at a time. The plants would be sold out at auction within hours of their arrival in

Britain. Many died, if not in transit then soon after purchase, as horticultural techniques struggled vainly to keep pace with cupidity.

The First World War brought the golden age of collecting to an abrupt end. By the time it was over, resources had dwindled below the level at which they could support plunder on such a grand scale, and the governments of countries where orchids flourished had learned to keep a protective eye on their treasures. Advances in techniques of hybridization—the first was in 1853, and there are today more than 45,000 registered hybrids—had in any case made the industry self-generating.

Orchid growers admit that it is not only their beauty that enchants them: the techniques for growing orchids exert their own fascination. They start with the just—difficult-enough-to-be-interesting (the beginner's downfall), and end with the spectacular and near-impossible. The tricky thing about orchids is that in the wild they tend to live in trees or on rocks, with their roots hanging about all over the place. They are most emphatically not pot plants; even the relatively few ground-dwelling tropical species are rooted in soil that is very thin, open and porous.

A pot might be a kind of support or container for an orchid, but never an environment. Creating and maintaining that environment in the home or greenhouse is the initial challenge.

Challenge is really what orchid-growing is all about these days: no amateur is likely to get rich by it. Sometimes a truly exceptional plant, awarded the FCC (first class certificate) by the Royal Horticultural Society's fortnightly orchid committee, might find a buyer in the United States or the Middle East willing to pay £500-£600, but the chances of that are very remote. The days are gone when a Rothschild or a Duke of Devonshire might fork out a small fortune in guineas for a prize specimen. Today £50 is about the limit at which a plant with the highest awards is likely to find a ready market in Britain.

About British species of orchid, the less said the better. There are fewer than a dozen native species remaining, all of them virtually extinct. Their habitats



Two Paphiopedilums worlds apart: Paphiopedilum Toby Strauss 'Stonehurst' (left), winner of RHS award of merit and which is valued at £1,000; a common variety (right) valued at £10



King of the orchid hunters: Frederick Sander

### Their beautiful obsession

Sander, the Victorian orchid king, spent part of his youth in the unprepossessing south London suburb of Lewisham, where he made a good marriage that helped financially to launch him on his monomaniacal career. It is in Lewisham that the Orchid Society of Great Britain has its headquarters today, in the home of Mr Leslie Bowen, its secretary.

Mr Bowen, a newsagent, has been preoccupied with orchids for more than 30 years. Always a keen gardener, he started with

curatations and later became interested in begonias, of which his collection of 150 species was probably the best in the country at the time.

"Then some clot gave me an orchid", Mr Bowen recalls. "And that was the end of it all. It's a drug. Once you've been successful with one, you start looking around at the hundreds of thousands of others."

"All the others go, the orchids take over. Within a couple of years I had got rid of all the begonias, and I've been well and truly hooked ever since."

Mr Bowen's orchid greenhouse is impressive but not, in

February, a very cheerful place. The atmosphere is humid and clammy at a temperature of around 50°F, and very few of the specimens are even thinking about flowering. An orchid plant out of flower is not a pretty sight, an untidy jumble of withering leaves (off which the new growth will feed) and visceral-looking pseudobulbs with, at best, a tentative spike or two hinting at the glories to come.

Cymbidiums, the most popular genus, come into their own towards the end of March: most other orchids peak, in our climate, during autumn.

If you are tempted to try an

orchid notwithstanding Mr Bowen's warnings, he recommends cymbidiums, cool-growing types of paphiopedilums or odontoglossums for a novice. Be sure to buy the plant in flower: colours may vary within a cross, even though the name will be the same. Most normally heated greenhouses can cope with the less difficult genera: it is possible, but far from easy, to bring some orchids to flower in the house. A good, but not great, specimen in flower will cost £10 to £15, a fine one £40 or more (including p&p from stockists outside London).

The difficulty of cultivating orchids is due to a series of

built-in contradictions in their natural habitat, most often a tree branch at intermediate height in a tropical rainforest. The atmosphere must be warm and humid for much of the time, but the roots must never get too wet, and too much heat is fatal; conditions can, and should be, quite cool for longer or shorter periods, but never cold; light must be very good, but direct sunlight kills.

Although orchids are a lot tougher than is generally supposed, mere survival is not enough: improperly treated, the plant may carry on for many years but never flower.

in this part of the world are exclusively terrestrial, and include a type of symbiotic fungus, mycorrhiza. Cultivation is therefore all but impossible; it is in any case illegal to dig up a native plant.

Orchids are defined botanically as being, among other things, plants whose flowers comprise three sepals, resembling petals, and three true petals, of which one has a strikingly different shape from the other two.

It is the odd-petal-out, known as the "lip", that gives the orchid its characteristic other-worldly appearance. The flowers and roots of the tree-growing species are attached to a pseudobulb, an organ that stores moisture and nutrients, not a true bulb at all. The pseudobulb, like the flowers and roots, can take a great many forms. The reproductive organs, separate in most flowers, are in orchids joined together in one organ called the "column".

Orchid species are named,

like any other, in Latin, generic name first followed by specific, both written in italics. When two species are crossed, or hybrids crossed with other hybrids or species, a new name is registered in the official orchid studbook, and all such crosses will bear that name, which is recognizable because it is not italicized. *Cymbidium chrysanthum* crossed with *C. insignis*, for example, yields *Cymbidium Alexandrinum*.

Popular genera to look out for are cymbidium, cattleya, paphiopedilum, dendrobium, odontoglossum, phalaenopsis and vanda. Depending on the species, a plant might cost you a few pounds or a few hundred.

Anyone who deals in orchids is by definition an enthusiast. Any novice who is foolish enough to buy one and expose himself to the madness will, on request, be deluged with more than enough advice at the point of sale to send any normal person haring back to his geraniums.

The Orchid Society of Great Britain publishes a beginner's guide, 60p (including p&p) from Mr L. E. Bowen, secretary, 28 Felsley Road, Lewisham, London SE13 0JL-690, 4519. Mr Bowen can also put would-be enthusiasts in touch with local societies (s.a.s. with all such inquiries, please). National membership is £5 individual, £25 joint, per year.

The orchid calendar comprises four main events: Mar 20-21: The British Orchid Growers' Association (BOGA) show at the Royal Horticultural Society, Vincent Square, London SW1.

Apr 15: The Orchid Society of Great Britain's spring show, Syon Park, Isleworth, Middlesex, May 22-25: The Chelsea Flower Show.

Nov 20-21: The Orchid Society of Great Britain's autumn show, Royal Horticultural Society.

The society recommends the following stockists: Sumner Nurseries, Kingsteigton, Newton Abbot, Devon.

Kath Andrew Orchids, Plush, Dorset. McBean Orchids, Cooksbridge, Lewes, Sussex.

R. & E. Ratcliffe, Downland Nurseries, Chilton, Didcot, Oxon. T. Simmons & Son, 186 Nether Street, London N3.

Stonehurst Orchids, Ardingley, Sussex. Wyld Court Orchids, Hampstead, Norreys, Newbury, Berkshire. Mansell & Hatcher, Rawdon, Leeds.

Bromesbury Place Nurseries, Lechlery, Hereford and Worcester.

### A clement climate

Orchid growers think about their precious charges in terms of "climate both inside and outside the pot", and divide the plants roughly into three groups: cool-growing, which means a minimum winter nighttime temperature of 50°F (an occasional drop to 45°F is usually tolerable, but not as a regular occurrence); intermediate, requiring a winter minimum temperature of 55-60°F; and "stove-house", the trickiest, requiring a minimum of 65°F all year round. Curiously, orchids must not get too hot, and various shading and ventilating arrangements may be necessary in summer.

Most orchids require very good light, although new growths may need some protection when young. The most important factor is probably humidity: 70-80 per cent is a must, and the moist air should be kept moving if possible. Damping down (use mains water, saving rain water for watering the plants) must be carried out every morning, all year round, and possibly several times during the day in summer. Never leave water in the centre



For those in search of exotic pleasures: Masdevallia Chimaera (left) and Epidendrum prismatocarpum

of the plants, as the spikes will rot. Like most plants, orchids, especially epiphytic types, need a "rest" period, for which our winters seem to suffice.

Compost (there are many proprietary mixtures) must be very well drained and allow

plenty of air around the roots. Feed and water the plants sparingly. Take the usual greenhouse precautions.

If you must grow orchids in the house, a cool (but never too cold), bright bathroom is probably best.

## WHAT WINE?

MONTHLY

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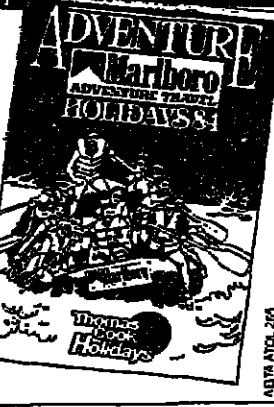
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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Mike Banks outward-bound on the back of an elephant or a dog-drawn sledge...

## Holiday highs when the going gets tough

Motor vehicle tracks criss-cross Rub al-Khali, the Empty Quarter of the Arabian Desert, and the central desolation of the Sahara. Lhasa is no longer a forbidden city. I have led tours which travelled by husky sledge over the same frozen fjords that Gino Watkins was exploring in the 1930s. The only real obstacles to travel these days are political, not geographical. The adventure tour has penetrated the remote and quiet regions of the world.

When air transport developed dramatically after the Second World War and people found that they had more money and leisure, adventure tourism was one outcome. For a discerning minority beach holidays were no longer enough. For them a holiday needed to be an active experience, a total contrast to urban life. Adventure tours met this need.

Adventure tours have become a small growth industry, for the most part operated by small companies staffed by enthusiasts.

Any trip which strays from the beaten track is these days too readily given the label of adventure tourism. The genuine article involves a certain amount of hardship or exertion and a touch of uncertainty. This comes tolerably close to the Concise Oxford Dictionary definition of adventure: "Risk, danger, daring enterprise; unexpected incident". These, in moderation, are exactly the ingredients which make up the perfect adventure tour.

It is a curious fact that adventure holidays are most relished in retrospect when things go decidedly, but not disastrously, wrong. For instance, last year on an Arctic tour an unfriendly squall belched out of a still night and blew our tent down. We awoke with a respectable blizzard roaring round our heads! This considerable hiccup was the talking point of the tour and, I am sure, the incident which will live brightest in the memories of the occupants of the tent, including a 77-year-old American.

Adventure tours have the dual attraction of visiting inaccessible places and isolated communities. They operate principally in those four types of terrain which were the arena for many a desperate journey in the great days of geographical exploration: the deserts, the mountains, the jungles and the polar regions. Of these, the deserts and mountains lend themselves particularly well to tourism. Here sustained journeys may be made which bring the traveller into contact with interesting people and titanic scenery.

The best way of selecting a tour operator is word-of-mouth from someone who has been on a well run and successful tour. Failing that, you will find most of the British adventure tour companies listed at the back of the *Geographical Magazine*. For mountain treks also check the small ads in *Climber* & *Rambler* and *The Great Outdoors*.



Blowing cold and hot: A polar traveller caddles two huskies...

themselves into the tourist business. The possibilities are breathtaking!

Arctic tourism offers wider possibilities but needs careful timing. To enjoy the best snow conditions you have to utilise the relatively narrow slot between the cold and dark of winter and the discomfort of the thaw. But in the brief Arctic spring the temperatures are reasonable, the days are lengthening and the snow is crisp and scintillating.

That is the time to make a dog sledge journey with the Greenland Eskimos: you will be captivated by that rumbustious Arctic character, the husky. The West of Greenland is better than the East of Greenland where bad weather can cause horrific flight delays.

Most Arctic tourism takes place in high summer when the snow on the land has melted and the sun sails round the sky without setting. This unending sunshine has a heady effect; you feel you are living on borrowed time.

The Arctic summer can be very benign and produces ideal conditions for walking, boat travel or observing wildlife, notably breeding birds in their thousands. There is one unexpected snag: mosquitoes can be a scourge in some areas.

## Bladon Lines

The address and telephone number of the travel company Bladon Lines (mentioned last Saturday) are 309 Brompton Road, London SW3 (01-785 2200).

## Cracking open the Antarctic

A visit to the Antarctic is as exotic as it is expensive and it is normally accomplished by making a passage by special cruise ship through the often stormy Antarctic seas. Clearly this is not for those who suffer badly from seasickness. However, Lindblad Travel are breaking new ground this spring by staging a week-long land visit to Antarctica, flying from Punta Arenas at the southernmost tip of Chile to the Antarctic Peninsula.

The group will stay in Antarctica as the guests of the Chilean Air Force and local journeys will be made by helicopter, snow tractor and jeep. The attractions of this tour are the rareness of the experience and the sight of mighty icebergs and teeming wildlife, principally sea mammals and birds. It is a beguiling thought that now that Chile has shown the way, other military forces tucked away in remote corners of the world might also get

## The jungle is now an open book

Jungles are mysterious places with their own particular fascination. They are best avoided during the wet season when the leeches are out in force. And if you want to see the wildlife, do not travel on foot because the animals hear you coming and make themselves scarce. Two good ways to overcome this problem are to use a hide or travel by river.

Alternatively - and this is best of all - sit on an elephant. Forest creatures certainly hear the elephant crashing along but they identify it as a harmless herbivore and tend to ignore it. Bird-watching is particularly enjoyable from an elephant and there is something very soothing and reassuring about these huge but gentle creatures which seem to tread so delicately.

Some very interesting jungle tours are run in the Terai, the jungle strip on the India/Nepal border where the rare one-horned rhinoceros, the fish-eating gharial crocodile and the tiger may be seen. Excursions through the jungle are made by elephant and river trips by dugout canoe. There are also jungle camps with well-sited hides.

The tiger is a night predator and keeps out of sight during the day. To produce it on call for tourist groups a water buffalo calf is tied to a stake near a hide at sunset. When the tiger arrives and kills the terrified calf, the tourists are summoned and a spotlight shone on the scene.

I refused to watch this unsavoury spectacle but all the other members of my group went to the hide. The majesty of the great cat obviously overcame any pity they may have felt for the victim.

Jungle trips are usually short - four days is the norm. They are therefore often taken in conjunction with other activities such as a Himalayan trek or a tour of India. They are also run in Thailand, in the gorilla country of Zaire and in the Amazonian jungles, again as parts of wider tours.

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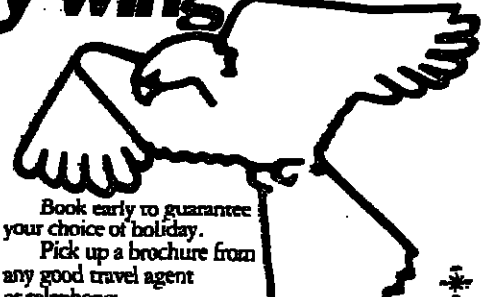
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## VALUES

What does the future hold for shoppers? In the first of a two-part series, Beryl Downing reports on how department stores are investing heavily in tomorrow

## Good times in store for the high street

For years the department store has been the dowager of the high street - dignified, gracious, reacting slowly to change. But the rise of the chain stores and the imminent danger of push-button shopping by computer has at last provoked a spirited reaction to the gloomy forecasts that the department store is dying.

The old lady is out to prove that she can still be attractive - even if it costs millions to smooth out the wrinkles.

The three major store groups, House of Fraser, Debenhams and the John Lewis Partnership have between them spent around £150m in the past three years on such face-lifts.

"One-stop shopping" is a term which has applied mainly to vast out-of-town hypermarkets where all the family food can be bought under one roof, together with a bit of DIY, a few clothes and some gardening equipment.

Debenhams are to extend the principle and offer a complete house-buying service in their stores, from the actual purchase of the house, including raising the finance, to hanging the ready-made curtains. They have started by renting space in their Chelmsford store to an estate agent and in three other stores - at Stockport, Ipswich and Great Yarmouth - to a "property shop" called Seekers.

The difference between estate agents and property shops is simple. The former work to a percentage, usually about 2 per cent, of the value of the property sold, which is payable only if a buyer is found. The latter charge a flat fee of about £85 to promote and advertise a property and this is payable whether they succeed or not.

Property shops set up meetings between buyers and sellers, but do not accompany buyers to the properties as estate agents often do.

At the moment the purchaser has to make separate visits to the surveyor, the bank, the building society and the insurance company. Debenhams intend to provide all these services at their stores so that a house buyer will be able to make all the financial arrangements under one roof before going to the bank to get the mortgage, arrange hire purchase or bank loans and protect the whole lot by contents insurance - without leaving the store.

All this will be done in an atmosphere far removed from

the leather-topped reverence of the bank manager's office. The group is importing American know-how to give its new stores an upbeat new image.

"We were looking at stores in America to see why they were so much more seductive than ours," Helen Robinson, Debenhams' director of group style, says. "I want to cater for people with aspirations. Just because people can't pay top prices it doesn't mean they shouldn't have glamorous places to shop in."

So Chaix and Johnson of Los Angeles were appointed to design the new stores. The first stage of a two-phase reconstruction at Croydon opened last year and a new £3m store is planned for Aberdeen this year.

The results at the Croydon store are spectacular. The immediate impression is of space and light. There are no backs to the display windows, so passers-by see straight into the chrome-and-mirrored interior. The problems faced by all stores in having to carry stock on the sales floor are overcome by the use of perspex and chrome island units to replace the heavy old wood fixtures.

Like some of their rivals, Debenhams, who own 67 stores, rely heavily on renting floor space to concessions - a quarter of their space is taken up by shops within shops, paying a rent of £35m.

But unlike others, they are also renting space in other people's stores. When their cosmetic buying section reached saturation they turned it into a separate company and opened a shop within a shop at Whitakers department store in Bolton, supplying their own fixtures, stock and staff. By the



All change: Pre-war Kennard's in Croydon (left) which Debenhams took over and first stage of the American-designed new store

end of the year they expect to double the turnover.

Debenhams is a particularly interesting example of what can be done to an ailing store group with decrepit buildings and poor facilities for customers and staff. The John Lewis Partnership has built its fortunes on giving its staff a generous share in its success.

John Spedan Lewis, son of the first John Lewis, first sowed the seeds of the partnership principle in 1920 when he distributed a "benefit" for his workers which represented seven weeks' pay. Thirty years later the partnership was legally completed and one of the stated principles was that "the supreme purpose of the John Lewis Partnership is simply the happiness of its members."

That, and the well known "never knowingly undersold" reputation are the foundation of the company's development into a group doing business worth over £1,000m a year. The phrase was not coined as an advertising slogan. It arose from the introduction of central buying as far back as the 1920s, and was used as an internal discipline to make sure that the benefits of the new policy were passed on to the customer.

Their growth is steady. Because of their policy to support government plans to maintain city centres they were the first to open a new store in Milton Keynes in 1979 - rather earlier than appeared to be commercially sensible, but in line with their belief that new towns would not survive and

develop without adequate facilities. Last year they opened a new store at Peterborough and they are now spending £30m rebuilding Heelas of Reading, transforming a series of worn-out 1858 buildings into a modern shopping paradise. During a gloomy time for all stores this has been reassuring progress.

In their store in Oxford Street, London, improvements have been more gradual, and the ideas seem to owe a lot to America, although carried out by British designers. In place of the restaurant a new Place to Eat has been created - a series of speciality eating counters with a transatlantic look.

### 'A store must have a strong identity to succeed'

The Trend department on the first floor is a good example of the "improved presentation" which is their way of attracting a younger and trendier customer. However, they insist that they are looking for customers "who like good, well-styled, functional merchandise and know that in our stores they are not going to pay through the nose for it. A store must have a strong identity to succeed."

One of the problems in maintaining that identity is the rise of the multiple chain stores. Traditionally they dealt in low-cost items, but high rates have

meant expansion into other areas traditionally associated with department stores. Boots are developing. Cookshops. Woolworth are strong on gardening. Marks and Spencer are into cosmetics.

"There is a breakdown in the distinction between multiple chain and department stores as they each use the other's techniques," says Peter Brimacombe, merchandise and marketing director of the House of Fraser.

"The chains are broadening their spectrum and becoming more innovative, while the department stores use the multiple's techniques to appeal to a broader audience."

At the moment House of Fraser are in the middle of a £100m refurbishment programme which includes modernization at Army & Navy in Guildford, Rackhams in Birmingham and D. H. Evans in London. Next month a new £4m store will open in Perth - the first since Dickins & Jones opened at Milton Keynes 18 months ago. A further £4m is being spent on another new store to open at Epsom.

But their development plan does not concentrate entirely on buildings. A great emphasis is placed on the merchandise, and the areas to watch are a new range of leisure menswear called Weekend, a range of own-brand kitchenware, and a collection of linens; there is an £8.5m buying programme of household textiles, mostly made in Lancashire. All will be in the stores soon.

Left: The John Lewis store at Milton Keynes was ahead of its time in design when it was built in 1979. Since then another major new store has opened in the Queensgate complex at Peterborough and Heelas at Reading is being completely redesigned

Right: American-style lifts at John Lewis, Milton Keynes, give passengers the feeling of travelling in a ski-lift. Flanked by escalators they look out from their glass lozenges as they travel up the open shaft

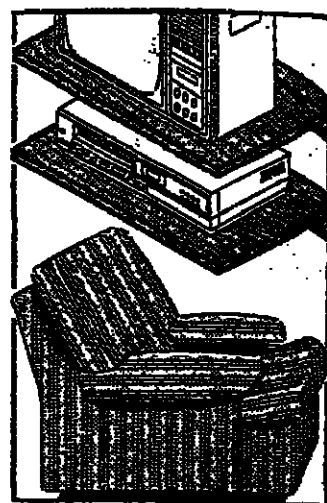
## SHOPFRONT

### Look, no brackets!

A shelving system with no visible means of support is one of the star products at the Ideal Home Exhibition.

The system, called Cliffhanger (illustrated), is based on a single piece of aluminium which is screwed to the wall. Standard 15mm or 16mm board is slotted in and is clamped automatically along the back edge. Without the addition of brackets or uprights, the shelves will carry weights as heavy as the average colour television set.

Cliffhanger comes in lengths of 2ft, 3ft and 4ft. In white, brown or silver anodized finish and can be cut down with a hacksaw to whatever length is required. Plastic end caps are supplied to finish out ends, and the packs include screws and plugs. Prices are £4.45, £5.99 and £7.95 from John Lewis stores.



Furniture at the exhibition is not usually notable for its exciting design, nor for its superb quality. The new Cedar high-back sofa and chair (illustrated) are the exceptions.

They are the latest additions to Collins and Haynes' "Hemlock" range. High backs are always more comfortable than the sleeker low ones, but can sometimes look rigid. These, however, slope back gently and have invitingly squishy back cushions. The seat cushions are

reversible, and the low rounded arms conform to the current vogue for a softer look in upholstered furniture.

Cedar can be covered in a range of fabrics and some very attractive pastel leathers. The armchair costs from £273, depending on cover, two-seat sofa from £249 and three-seat sofa from £263. They can be seen on the George Pryce stand 660 at the exhibition until April 1 and afterwards at Harrods and D. H. Evans.

New electrical sockets which help to prevent accidents are also on show at the exhibition.

Most electrical accidents are caused by damaged wiring, loose connections, deterioration in insulation and exposure to damp. Less than 1/4 amp can kill or start a fire, but will not blow a fuse. The PowerBreakers incorporate an electronic system known as a residual current circuit breaker (RCCB) which monitors the flow of power to an appliance, senses any faults and cuts off the current before danger levels are reached. Fitted to an extension lead one plug

could be used with several portable appliances and replaces an RCCB in the fusebox which would cost more to install.

Made by B & B Electrical Products of Harlow, the standard white sockets cost £39.95 and plugs £18.25 on the ElectroSafe stand 333. Plugs are also available at branches of John Lewis Partnership and Argos.

The Ideal Home Exhibition is on at Earls Court, London SW5 (885 1234) until April 1, daily 10am-8pm, adults £3, children and pensioners £2.

### Polar warmth

With snow still in the air, you may be interested in a new fabric called Polapelt.

It is a polyester-knit fleece, and said to be far more windproof than traditional woven cloths, raised both sides for extra warmth and a high resistance to pilling. Polapelt has been used successfully for mountaineering in the United States. It is machine-washable, non-allergic and insulates even when damp. It has been made up into two styles, the zippered pullover style illustrated (£25.95) and a jacket (£29.95), both in navy, grey, biscuit and burgundy and both suitable for several outdoor sports.

The manufacturers are Ultimate. For local stockists contact them at Ryburn Mill, Hanson Lane, Halifax HX1 4SE (0422 42011).



### Foodnote

Quark is a strange new sound in the supermarkets. Not the noise made by an upper-crust duck, but a type of low-fat cheese which is good news for slimmers and cholesterol-counters.

Stimmed-milk quark is excellent for cheesecakes; low-fat quark, the most widely distributed, comes

plain, sweet or savoury; medium-fat quark tastes much richer and slightly sweeter.

Prices are from 35p to 65p for 200g packs. The brand name to look for is Milram, at the German Food Centre, 44 Knightsbridge, London SW1 and branches of Waitrose and Sainsbury. Send an a/c to Quark, Leaflet, 31 Brechin Place, London SW7 (01-370 6971) for free recipes.

## IN THE GARDEN

## Prepare to spring into action

Now is the time of year when things really begin to hot up in every garden - and ours is no exception

Spring is here and from now on each week that passes will reveal more changes in the garden: plants and grass will begin to show signs of growth and it will become clear how well plants have survived the winter. Weeding should now be seen as a weekly chore.

There is still time to complete planting planned: I would not expect to have to call a halt until the last week in March. In the Times garden nearly all the suggested shrubs have been planted and the few gaps that remain will be filled as soon as the plants are available.

The illustrations on the right show the garden as it is now and some of the plants that will bring colour later in the year.

One change which has been made is the decision not to plant berberis or poncirus because they are very spiky and could hurt young children who are likely to be playing in the garden. Care has also been taken not to plant roses too near the edge of the shrubbery. Taking the place of Berberis Juliana will be a Camellia Donatona which is a hybrid from C. saluenensis and C.

japonica and one of the finest of all garden camellias.

The shrubbery will be very thin for the first few years so we have put roses there to give a bit of colour and body to the borders. As roses are shallow rooted they must be carefully watched during dry spells.

Many bulbs have been scattered through the shrubbery and the aim is to allow them to naturalize. However, it appears from the bulb tips now showing through the surface

that we have not planted enough and they will have to be thickened up during the coming autumn or early winter. We are now paying the price for our failure to do any mulching earlier and the number of weeds around shows how important this operation is.

The owner of the garden is keen to have a few lupins so four plants have been obtained, which are planted in the two main borders. They will get good light and the shrubs are far enough apart to allow them to grow and produce flowers.

The most important area of work now is probably the lawn. We were late in getting the grass seed sown and there are bare patches. But although it is still a little too soon to oversow, it is not too early to prepare the ground. Grass seed sown directly on to the bare patches has little chance of success, so these areas should be lightly forked to get a fine tilth in which to sow. It is vital to have level ground so once forking has been done tread the area to leave it level and firmed.

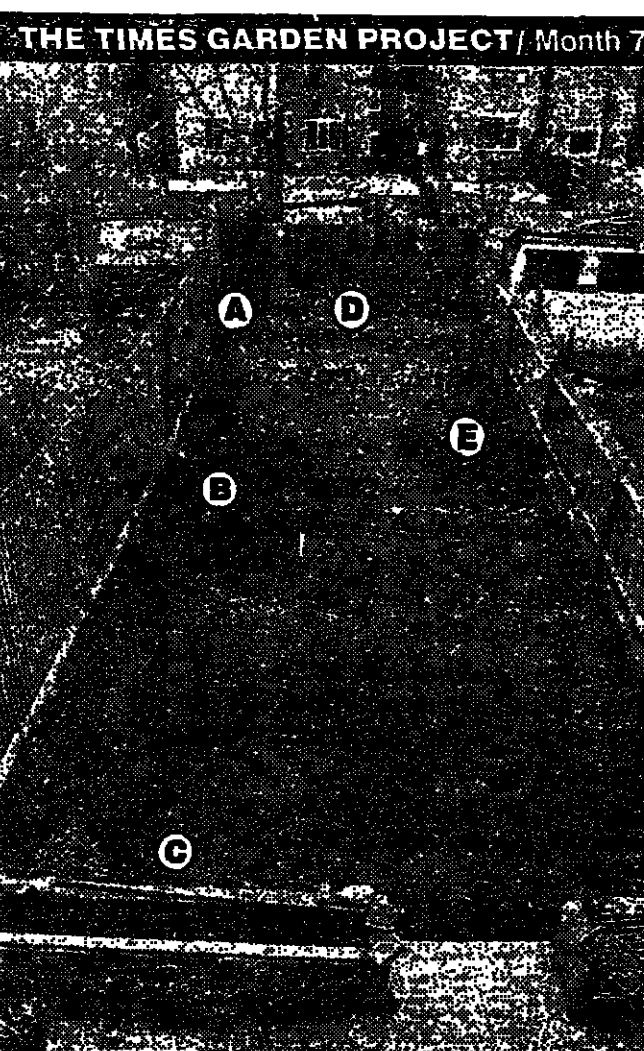
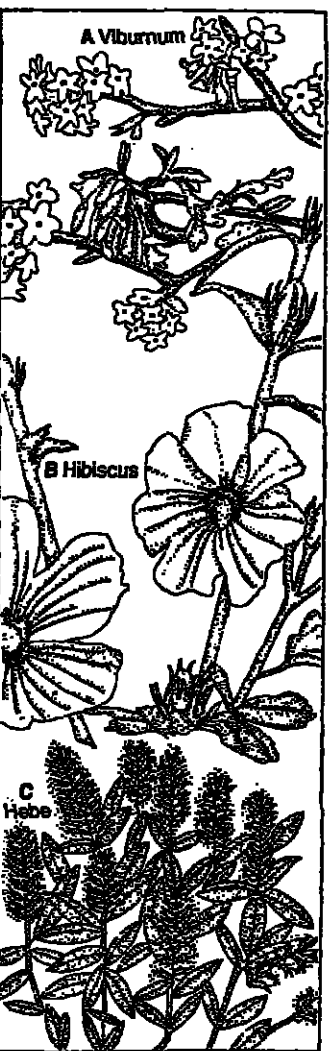
The last area to consider at the moment is the narrow border down the side of the house. The owner wants delphiniums in this border, so the first step should be to dig the ground and add manure or compost.

Ashley Stephenson

### The owner writes:

After a winter of heavy investment in shrubs, the expenditure on the garden has reached £339, out of a budget of £500 for the year. We have spent more than £200 on the shrubs we need to fill the borders.

Although the winter has been mild, the ground has often been wet, making digging and planting difficult. So we have tended to build up stocks, storing them on the patio area then getting them into the ground at a suitable moment. The advantage of this is that we have managed to get plants when dealers were well-stocked rather than having to take our pick from a dwindling choice at the end of the winter.



### Border incident

The demise of the herbaceous border is one of gardening's great losses. Herbaceous plants are still grown, but there are few borders about to delight us.

The large border is labour-intensive and most of the gardens where borders were grown had to economize on just that commodity. There are, however, still many parts of the garden where herbaceous plants can be used. They fill a gap in the season and are striking and colourful. Many of the species and varieties do not need staking and once planted can be allowed to flourish for a number of years without very much maintenance.

Herbaceous plants do need attention now. The dead tops which have been left on to protect the crown should be cut back to the ground. Use a good pair of secateurs and cut, do not pull, the dead stems as close to ground level as you can. Use them in the compost heap once they have been shredded.

If the plants have been untouched for more than three years the chances are they are ready for dividing. A crowded crown usually means the root should be lifted and divided. It is the young, vigorous outer places which are of value. After lifting, pull, break or cut the root into manageable pieces and select the useful places for replanting.

So long as the plants were not diseased they can be replanted in the same position after the ground has been refreshed and replenished with good soil and adequate fertilizer. Firming the roots is essential for all herbaceous varieties.

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REVIEW Paperbacks of the month

# Private lives stripped of all historical gloss

**Lives and Letters: The Pastons**, edited by Richard Barber (Penguin, £3.50); **Lore Byron**, edited by Peter Gunn; **The Daughters of Karl Marx**, edited by Olga Meier and Harold Nicolson; edited by Stanley Olson (all Penguin, £4.95).

This new series of *Lives and Letters* will appeal to anyone who enjoys reading history in the words of a contemporary, unstilted by the manoeuvrings of biographers. Penguin must be congratulated on the varied diet it has served as an appetizer to forthcoming volumes.

*The Pastons* traces the business dealings and love-lives of a rising Norfolk family. The editor, Richard Barber, tells us that these are the best-known of the few important groups of letters that have survived from the fifteenth century.

They prove that life does not change that much, although the Pastons lived amid threats of hanging, drawing and quartering, plots, intrigues and feigned allegiances. Possibly there is a moral for letter writers in the fact that the only surviving letter to Margery Paston from the man she loved was one he urged her to destroy.

As a poet and romantic writer, and for his amorous escapades, Lord Byron has always held a place in British hearts. Peter Gunn declares him "among the highest" of the letter writers "so that they may be read not only for their inherent interest, but also for the pleasure derived from their literary merit."

Fortunately Byron's ego was so inflated that he could not fully savour a love affair without giving a precise, blow by blow account of it to his friends. These letters provide many important clues to his character.

*The Daughters of Karl Marx* is the most heavily political volume of the series, for although there is much of the relationship between the three daughters and their long-suffering mother, Karl Marx was in no sense a private father. He was, as Sheila Rowbotham points out, "a philosophical and political father, one whose ideas have generated a tradition of thought rich in contradictions".

Marx was also aware that his public life caused pain and hardship to his family, that he had "sacrificed" his whole fortune to the revolutionary struggle. None of the daughters had easy lives. Jenny, the eldest, died after much pain and unhappiness aged 38. Eleanor committed suicide and Laura's three children died young.

Finally there is Harold Nicolson, who told his son that although he had written 40 books it would be for the three diaries (books that he did not realize he had written) that people would remember him.

Nigel Nicolson produced three edited volumes of diaries and letters in the 1960s. This condensed edition by Stanley Olson contains certain sections which were omitted from the earlier ones "for reasons of discretion which has become less necessary with the passage of time". Part of the fun of reading this new volume is to turn to these asterisked passages to find out whose sensibilities were being spared and why.

Lawrence Mynott contributes illustrated covers for this series which immediately sets the tone and historical period. It will be interesting to see how he portrays Chips, whose invaluable diaries make a welcome return to the bookshops in April.

Hugo Vickers



Unhappy family: Karl Marx (left) with his daughters Jenny, Eleanor and Laura, and Friedrich Engels

## Transforming telescope on a world of privilege and beauty

If one had to indicate an underlying theme in Sybil Bedford's fiction, it could be defined as loss of innocence – and not principally in sexual terms. This is most clearly demonstrated in the marvellous *A Favourite of the Gods* (first published in 1963) and its sequel *A Compass Error* (1968), now reissued by Virago.

In his perceptive introduction, Peter Vassiliadis stresses that Mrs Bedford's "flavour" derives from a European imagination, with all the luxurious cultural cosmopolitanism that that implies. Her people are conscious of their heritage; liberal, humanistic, deeply

committed to their near-genetic appreciation of the arts and the beautiful principle of social progress, intensely vulnerable to the barbarians who disturb and desecrate their world. Defiantly they continue to survive; and, battered as they are by social events out of their control, they find primitive enough areas in themselves for the infliction of wounds on their nearest and dearest.

The time-span of *A Favourite of the Gods* stretches from the turn of the century to the end of the 1920s and introduces three generations: Anna, the New England heiress married to a Roman prince, her daughter

*A Favourite of the Gods* by Sybil Bedford (Virago, £3.50)  
*A Compass Error* by Sybil Bedford (Virago, £2.95)

Constanza, reared in Italy and finished in England, and Flavia, the observant adolescent. Revelations are never chronological nor instantaneous. Flashbacks and glimpses forward are used to demonstrate that time must be reassessed for a proper comprehension of the truth.

Anna's prince (a happy urbanity) married her for her money, yet is truly devoted to her and the child. That he retains his mistress is merely

another indication of his loyalty, or sentimentality. That Anna married him because she fell in love with Italy, with Europe, is another aspect of the truth. That her shock at the revelation of his infidelity should make her pack her bags is open to doubt.

Equally ambiguous is Constanza's marriage to Simon. That divorce follows is inevitable. "How is one to live... if one step leads to another?" asks Flavia. "Like that", is Constanza's answer. The code of experience is established for Flavia.

In *A Compass Error*, the interesting if less riveting

sequel, Flavia retells the story of Anna and Constanza as she sees it, tells it in to the woman (exuberant wife of a famous French painter) who first seduces her, almost maternally. At seventeen, grigish and studious, Flavia falls in love. Her passion is unrequited and the ultimate betrayal matches Flavia's experience to that of her grandmother and mother. That the threat of Fascism and Nazism is gathering over Europe completes the woeful perspective, and perspective is a technique thoroughly understood by Sybil Bedford.

Kay Dick

## Potent magic of myth reworked

Simon Magus is remembered for "simony" and a few lines in the Acts of the Apostles. From this Anita Mason has fashioned a most exciting novel (short-listed for last year's Booker Prize), set 10 years after the death of a crucified character called Joshua.

Simon is a learned man, a necromancer, someone who can summon up remarkably convincing illusions, divine the future and, most remarkable of all, fly. His gifts are put to serve his greed, for money, influence and sex. He has never met people like Joshua's followers before and is baffled by their lack of learning – they have never studied magic in Egypt and one is a peasant who speaks no Greek, yet they have powers greater than his own.

Simon is an evil man and much of the book is concerned with evil, including an encounter with the Emperor Nero, a terrifying buffoon with powers of life and death. What happened in the end? Did good triumph over evil? Anita Mason leaves it as an open question. Myths survived, she claims, by tampering with the truth over the ages. I found it fascinating.

Myth as history, or history as myth, is also the theme of D. M. Thomas's *Ararat*, Armenia, a real and also a fabled land, is at the heart of the book, if heart there is, because it is con-

*The Illusionist* by Anita Mason (Abacus, £1.95)  
*Ararat* by D. M. Thomas (Abacus, £1.55)



D.M. Thomas: Flower arranging?

structed as a story within a story, with yet another couple of stories tucked away inside that. It was a dark and stormy night in Gorky, where the writer Rozanov had an assignation with a blond woman who was writing a thesis on his poetry. After a night of not particularly enjoyable passion, she said to Rozanov: "Tell me a story" – and this is the story he told.

It wasn't a dark and stormy night, but another well-known Russian writer is on board ship, travelling to lecture in America, dogged by women and a frightful old man who has taken

part in every act of genocide over the last 50 years – Armenians, Jews, gypsies, not a ghastly scene missed. In the middle of that we are moved into Pushkin's St Petersburg, where the art of the improvisatore – the telling of stories on a theme picked out of the air – is greatly admired.

Everywhere one turns there is an Armenian, or a literary allusion or, it seems, a direct quotation from some other work. Mr Thomas has had the allegation of plagiarism thrown at him before now (over *The White Hotel*) and to lay himself open, once again, to angry accusations seems rather like carelessness. Or is it defiance?

As one of his poets says to an improvisatore: "Why, another man's thoughts have scarcely reached your ear before they have become your own, as if you had conceived them, nursed them and developed them over a long period. So, for you there is no toil, no death, nor that unrest which is the prelude to inspiration? Astonishing, astonishing!"

Mr Thomas is sufficiently talented not to have to make arrangements of other men's flowers. After *The Fluteplayer* and *The White Hotel*, *Ararat* is a disappointment.

Philippa Toomey

## Rich month for classics

Homer, *The Iliad*, translated by Robert Fitzgerald (Oxford, £2.95)  
War Music by Christopher Logue (Penguin, £2.50)  
The Anglo-Saxon World edited and translated by Kevin Crossley-Holland (Oxford, £2.95)

One of the many advantages of reading English, the world language, is that we can read in translation the classics of the world. Agreed, you can no more translate music, but a good English translation can get as near as linguistically possible to the heart of the matter.

This is a rich month for classics. Here is the first publication in the UK of the famous translation of the *Iliad* by Robert Fitzgerald, Professor of Rhetoric at Harvard.

It solves better than most the notorious difficulties of translating oral poetry from a heroic age. The action is clear, the narrative runs, the dialogue speaks as heroes might have spoken and the formulaic epithets do not stick in the throat.

Try a bit for size, the famous passage when the old men of Troy, sitting on the wall, watch Helen climbing the stairs and murmur to each other like cicadas that she is so beautiful that the past 10 years of war have been worthwhile.

*We cannot rage at her, it is no wonder  
That Trojans and Achaeans  
Under arms  
Should for so long have borne  
The pains of war  
For one like this.*

A bit plain and unpoetic for your tastes? Christopher Logue's version of the killing of Patroclus and its consequences in books 16 to 19 of the *Iliad* gets closer to the thunder of the battle and the shouting of the gods.

Now hear this:  
*While they fought around the  
ship from Thessaly,  
Patroclus came crying to the  
Greek....*

It is wonderfully exciting stuff, though by no means a close translation. I wish that Logue would turn his hot eye on the sunset of the *Odyssey*.

Kevin Crossley-Holland's anthology of Anglo-Saxon writing, from the great poems to the riddles and chronicles, gives a word picture of our Old English forefathers who came to these islands as pagans, boasting ideals of loyalty and vengeance, and walking in fear of fate, and yet within 200 years had become Christians to such effect that England became the centre of missionary endeavour and, for a time, the heart of European civilization.

Philip Howard

## EATING OUT

### Variety in store on a tour from Brittany to Corsica

*The march of internationalism and the fashionability of nouvelle cuisine have tended to blur awareness of the rich regional differences in French cooking. This week, we visit two rather different restaurants for a tour de province*

It may be stating the obvious to say that France is a large and varied country but, in gastronomic terms, little of this scale and variety filters through to the majority of London's French restaurants. For anyone wishing to rediscover forgotten recipes, Waverley Root's *The Food of France*, a classic guide republished last year (Penguin, £4.95), is a highly informative, enjoyable and unpretentious read. But for sampling, a visit to Chelsea's Le Francis restaurant is essential.

Each week, Le Francis, a smartly appointed, comfortable restaurant with panelled walls, modern prints and dark green colour scheme, offers a short

regional menu to complement its more classical main carte. This effectively allows regular customers to enjoy a gastronomic tour of the country from Brittany to Corsica. Over a year some 30 different areas are covered.

The three-course regional menus are nominally at a price of £11 a head, but with supplements for certain dishes, VAT added later, and wines and coffee not included, the final cost is nearer £20 a head. Nevertheless, to judge by my recent dip into the cuisine of Périgord, the cooking is worth that price and seems authentic.

I was primed by Mr Root's book to expect truffles, goose and hare to be dominant features of cuisine périgourdine, and though no truffles featured, both goose and hare did. Tender slices of smoked breast of goose with pickled salads was one of starters, along with a splendid, creamy bisque-like mousseline (poultry soup with saffron).

The rable de lièvre à la poivrade (roast saddle of hare in a green-peppercorn sauce) was



Crisp life in Paris, 1874 (The Marnet Collection)

the most notable of the main courses, and the dark, rich slices of meat accompanied by a celery tart and redcurrant jelly were well worth the £2 supplement on the prix fixe.

The region is also famous for its freshwater fish, and the mousseline of fresh salmon in a sorrel sauce was almost as distinctive. However, the carré d'agneau (admittedly with Sarladaise-style potatoes sautéed in goose fat) and the trout victorine (stuffed with fish mousse in a white wine and mushroom sauce with almonds)

seemed to have less of a regional identity. Disappointingly, there were no regional desserts. The choice is soufflés, glaces, sorbets or tarts from the trolley, and there is a shamefully limited range of cheese (three altogether to be precise). But two regional wines are selected to match each menu, and the maître d'hôtel's introduction, complete with maps, is brisk, helpful and good-humoured.

While Le Francis attempts to cover the country, L'Estuaire concentrates on the food of

Gascogne and Béarn in south-west France. The proximity of Spain and the Basque country are evident in the decor (white brick walls, tiled floor, red woven curtains) and in certain dishes – chipirones farcis (a cone of squid stuffed with sausage-meat), poulet basquaise (with mushrooms, potatoes and ham) – but most of the food is rugged French country fare.

Fried scallops, Spanish mussels, tourte de poisson and a fish soup from Arzaccon represent the seafood interest, with beef steaks and the classic daube de boeuf au vin de Cahors (marinated layers of beef with ham and carrots) taking good care of meat-eaters. Finish with crêpes flavoured with zizara, a Basque liqueur made from wild flowers. Potent regional wine (Menjuen) is served in litre carafes, perhaps to keep your attention off the delays between courses. The ground-floor, cafe-style restaurant is more atmospheric, and cheaper, than the gloomy basement rooms and your refreshing trip abroad should cost around £12 a head.

Stan Hey

Le Francis, 259 Fulham Road, London SW3 (352 4748); Mon-Sat noon-1.45pm and 7-10.45pm. L'Estuaire, 158 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 (373 9818); Mon-Sat noon-3pm, 7.30pm-2am

## A cleaner, clearer Europe

EEC Environmental Policy and Britain: an essay and a handbook by Nigel Haigh (Environmental Data Services, Bowdoin Green Lane, London EC1, £12.95)

Almost 12 years after our accession to the Treaty of Rome, Europe is still a mystery to most of us. Its institutions seem impenetrable, its deliberations labyrinthine, its decisions remote. Whatever those overpaid politicians and bureaucrats get up to in Brussels or Strasbourg can have nothing, surely, to do with the British. Lamb wars, wine lakes and the like may generate the occasional headline, but the origins of such controversies and the legislation that fuels them remain obscure.

It is just possible, in fact, that Nigel Haigh is the only man in the world who understands Europe completely; fortunately, his powers of communications are such that he can make his knowledge accessible to the legions of the ignorant. Here he outlines the process by which British entry into Europe coincided with a peak in international concern over man's destructive effect on his environment, resulting in a formal decision "to give a gloss to the words of the Treaty and assume that environmental policy was implicit".

The explicit consequence has been at least 35 items of legislation influencing, and in some instances creating, British policies on pollution control, waste disposal, wildlife and countryside conservation.

In short, "membership of the Community has come to change the way an important part of British environmental policy is now thought about, is enunciated, and ultimately is even put into practice". Environmental policy in Europe, above all, has demonstrated that the Community is capable of being very much more than a forum for the arbitration of conflicting economic interests.

Mr Haigh thinks the controversy over acid rain will soon "move the community's environmental policy onto a new plane".

The book provides a way in to a wider understanding of the EEC. As the author asserts: "Many more people now understand better how the Community works as a result of their interest in the environment and environmental policy".

Tony Samstag

## Bordeaux with a lot of bottle

A new Bordeaux bottle is just arriving that not only has the traditional high-shouldered shape but is also discreetly embossed at the neck with the word "Bordeaux" and three interwoven crescents – the city's symbol.

Several glass manufacturers already stock this new design but although it was originally the idea of the Conseil Interprofessionnel des Vins de Bordeaux (the region's official governing body), each chateau may choose whether or not to bottle its wine with the new embossed embellishments. Whether it will catch on at the Premier Grand Cru level is not yet clear; in any case d'Yquem won't have to make its mind up immediately because at the moment there is only a green embossed version available rather than the clear bottles used for the region's sweet white wines.

The first Bordeaux vintage to be exported in these bottles is the 1983. I tasted my first sample this week – a new '83 Bordeaux blanc sec with the somewhat pretentious name of "Prestige" from an important Bordeaux firm of negociants, Yvon Mau. This lively, 100 per cent cold fermentation white is made from the region's classic white wine grapes – the Sauvignon and the Semillon – and although it contains only 20 per cent Sauvignon it is this grape's stylish, grassy-green scent that is its dominant characteristic.

On the palate "Prestige" is even more impressive and is one of the most positive and pungent dry Bordeaux whites I have ever tasted. It is at its best when well chilled and its strong character enables it to partner aggressively flavoured fish dishes with ease (Cullens will stock "Prestige" from about April onwards, priced at £2.55).

Alsace is another good source of end-of-winter white wines that have sufficient punch to cope with cold March days. Their spicy Gewürztraminer is ideal. Tesco's increasingly impressive wine department have an excellent '81 Gewürztraminer from the charming Murs family at Routhfild whose Clos Saint Landelin wines are much admired. A bargain at £2.99, this fine, pale gold wine has a very full, flowery-spicy bouquet backed up by a spicy, full, bone-dry taste that Tesco's have sensibly decided not to round off with a little sweetness, as other supermarket chains might have done. Another good

feature of this Gewürztraminer is its restrained, elegant style: the Murs family have commendably avoided the exotic overblown approach that is too often the hallmark of Alsatian Gewürztraminers.

Choosing good yet inexpensive red wines this month is even easier because most merchants are still running spring or pre-budget sales. There is still time to take advantage of Adnams's new year cash sale that offers a fine clutch of '75 and '78 clarets at much reduced prices, including '75 Chateau Kirwan and a '75 Chateau Giscours (the latter on offer at £9.50 per bottle instead of £10.70).

Those who particularly like white burgundy could also try Jean Thievenet's excellent '80 Domaine de la Bon Grand Macon-Villages for just £4.50 (Adnams, Sole Bay Brewery, Southwold, Suffolk).

Justerini & Brooks are holding one of their big wine tastings and sales in London on Wednesday. There will be 37 cut-price wines on offer at this by-the-case-only cash sale and prices will not change whatever happens in Tuesday's budget.

Good buys include a delicious spicy, deep purple '81 Cotes du Rhone La Haie aux Grives Domaine Vieux Chene whose spicy-oaky Syrah charm is a snap at £3.16. (Make certain you buy the '81 vintage of this wine and not the '79 which is also available and nowhere near as good.)

Other bargains are a grassy, clean-cut and direct Graves – the '78 Chateau Montalivet (£3.65) – and the rich, gamey and mature '77 Pichon Lalande (£3.92). Another that I much enjoyed is Guigal's splendid '79 Hermitage (£7.32) which is blessed with a deep purple-black colour and glorious rich, majestic Syrah style. Perhaps the greatest advantage of Justerini's sale is that you can taste all the wines before you buy.

Jane MacQuitty

Anyone who wants to attend Justerini & Brooks's sale should telephone Mr William Glasson on 01-483 8721 immediately as there are only a limited number of places.

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Di Montefiore  
Mazzoni Estate 1982  
Greco di Tufo  
Mastrolonardo 1982  
Reds

Castellanoforte 1982  
Lacryma Christi del Vesuvio  
Mastrolonardo 1979

**8 Liguria & Emilia-Romagna**

Terre Rosse's delightfully elegant, dry white Italian Riesling and a pungent, hearty, dry white Albano and an easy-going light red holiday wine scented from the truffles of Portofino. Two bottles each of the following for £55.60

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Reds

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## Forces that make a farce of marriage

The setting is Tsarist Russia but the theme is universal. It is the ridiculous snobbery and social pressures which surround the institution of marriage.

Gogol's *Marriage* is a play about matchmaking which features a gallery of colourful, almost grotesque characters. A new production presented by the ensemble company Shared Experience opens at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, on Wednesday. Gogol's work has been adapted by Mike Alfreds, the company's founder, from a literal translation by Boris Isarov.

Alfreds says that on the surface the play is a farce about a bachelor virtually forced into marriage to a girl who is not in the first flush of youth. "It is about people who get married for the wrong reasons - for money, social position or just because they feel they ought to. The characters are grotesque, obsessive, but underneath they are all motivated by deep, basic human drives like fear. It is this which gives the play its universal quality."

*Marriage* has been overshadowed by Gogol's other full-length play, *The Government Inspector*, and has rarely been put on in Britain. In his adaptation Alfreds has played up the farcical element: "I wanted to get an extreme level of playing with extreme characters. All have a strong physical life and all have speech mannerisms."

Alfreds founded Shared Experience in 1975. The emphasis in performance has been on telling stories, presenting narrative plays, for the most part the company has worked without the aid of sets, props or costumes. "Our approach concentrates on the actors, giving them more freedom in interpretation. They can make changes to their performance each night, moving to different parts of the stage, sometimes surprising their fellow actors, but it is disciplined improvisation, not anarchy."

"I feel that the essential thing about the theatre is the actor's vitality on stage. Without that, the audience is getting short-changed. We want the audience to feel the excitement which comes in rehearsal when a line or a movement is suddenly right, a moment of shock."

In some respects *Marriage* represents a break with the company's tradition: the stage, far from being empty, is packed with furniture and all the emblems of cosy domesticity, including a birdcage. And the actors' costumes include some pretty eccentric wigs. "It is quite an elaborate production, but after this it is back to basics again", says Alfreds.

Alfreds believes that if a production does not develop it has failed, however polished it

may be. But he does not over-emphasize the improvisation: the production is fully scripted and there is no ad-libbing.

The company comprises eight people - five men and three women - who have been together for 15 months; all had previously worked with Alfreds. Partly because they know each other well, Alfreds's adventurous approach has not caused any disasters. "It is the first time I have had a company all of whom have been with me before. We have now done four productions and it really is an ensemble", he says. "Things do not go wrong because the actors know how to cope."

The Lyric has been Shared Experience's London venue for a couple of years, retaining their association with Peter James, who came there from the Crucible, Sheffield.

Christopher Warman

*Marriage* previews at the Lyric Theatre, King Street, London W6 (741 2311). On Tues at 7pm. Opens Wed, 7pm, then until Apr 7. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, matinees Thurs 2.30pm, Sat 4pm.

## Critics' choice

**THE CUSTOM OF THE COUNTRY** (828 8795/8891). Today at 2pm and 7.30pm. Mon at 7.30pm. In repertory with *Turquoise* by Molière (Wed-Fri at 7.30pm; matinee Thurs at 2pm).

Taking a rare Jacobean comedy as its starting point, Nicholas Wright's tale of innocent and fresh love in turn-of-the-century Transvaal has a highly original flavour and provides Sara Kestelman and Sinead O'Sullivan with two splendidly extravagant roles.

**GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS** (828 2252). Wed-Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory with *Strider - The Story of a Horse* by Mark Rozovsky (today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon-Tues at 7.30pm).

David Mamet's menacing account of the street-smart world of US real-estate salesmen has a resonance that spreads wide; a cast including Jack Shepherd and Tony Haygarth in top form does it justice.

**HAY FEVER** (Queen's 734 1166). Until Apr 14, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinees Wed at 3pm.

Noël Coward's 1920s comedy about a theatrical family and their mixed bag of persecuted house guests remains hilarious after any number of revivals, and Penelope Keith leads the leading lady's part as though to the bad manners born.

**MASTER CLASS** (Wyndham's Theatre (836 3028). Until Apr 7, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.30pm; matinees Wed at 3pm.

Stalin's 1948 pressure session with composers Prokofiev and Shostakovich, as David Pownall the setting for an alarming yet

sometimes horribly funny drama, full of food for thought on art and politics and the relation between them. Timothy West's fearsome Stalin is a complex study on the grand scale.

**MAYDAYS** (828 8795/8891). Today at 2pm and 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, final performance Tues at 7.30pm. In repertory with *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand (Wed-Fri at 7.30pm; matinee Thurs at 2pm).

Stretching from 1945 to the present, David Edgar's vast chronicle play probes the British Left's loss of direction and watches two characters changing political colour from red to blue. Long, often difficult and verbose, this non-fictionalised socialist theory, but ambitious, complex and dramatically challenging at its best.

With Anthony Sher, John Shrapnel and Bob Peck.

**PACK OF LIES** (Lyric (828 8795). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinee Wed at 3pm.

Ray Cooney's all-star revival (Maureen Lipman, Derek Nimmo, Christopher Timothy, Michael Denison) of Philip King's glorious wartime farce featuring a village spinster and a stageful of real and spurious vicars.

**YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU** (Lyttelton (828 2252). Thurs and Fri at 7.45pm. In repertory with *Master Harold... and the Boys* by Athol Fugard (today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tues and Wed at 7.45pm; matinee Wed at 3pm).

Once again the National strikes gold in America, this time with Kaufman and Hart's endearing 1936 comedy about a family of happy eccentrics. Jimmy Jewell as the genial, drop-out grandpa, Geraldine McEwan as dotty, authoress mother, Gaye Brown as alcoholic actress and Margaret Courtenay as a Russian grandee turned waitress.

**THE RIVALS** (Olivier (828 2252). Today at 2pm and 7.15pm, Mon-Fri at 7.15pm. In repertory with *Shaw and Jean Seberg* by Marvin Hamlisch, Christopher Adler and Julian Barry (Fri at 8pm).

Peter Wood's sparkling revival of Sheridan's hilarious comedy about a young but hilariously affected Mrs Malaprop, and Sir Michael Hordern gaily and inebriated as Sir Anthony Absolute.

**SAINT JOAN** (Olivier (828 2252). Tues-Thurs at 7.15pm; matinee Thurs at 2pm. In repertory with *The Rivals* and *Jean Seberg* in Ronald Eyre's spectacular production, Shaw's great play fills

epically this vast auditorium without ever quite stilling the doubts it always raises. Strong cast led by Frances de la Tour's gritty, rustic visionary.

**SEE HOW THEY RUN** (Shaftesbury (930 8577). Until Apr 21, Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5.30pm and 8.30pm; matinee Wed at 3pm.

Ray Cooney's all-star revival (Maureen Lipman, Derek Nimmo, Christopher Timothy, Michael Denison) of Philip King's glorious wartime farce featuring a village spinster and a stageful of real and spurious vicars.

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Peter Wood's sparkling revival of Sheridan's hilarious comedy about a young but hilariously affected Mrs Malaprop, and Sir Michael Hordern gaily and inebriated as Sir Anthony Absolute.

## Out of Town

**SELFAST:** Lyric Players (0232 550081). When the Wind Blows by Raymond Briggs. Preview on Tues at 8pm, opens Wed at 8pm, until Mar 31, Mon-Sat at 8pm.

Bleak and blackly funny account of one couple's attempts to cope with the after-effects of a nuclear explosion, using the official government handbook.

**BIRMINGHAM:** Repertory Theatre (021 236 4455). One for the Road by Willy Russell. Until Mar 31, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

Willy Russell has revised and adapted his comedy and set it in Birmingham: housing estates, vandalism and middle age.

**BROMLEY:** Churchills (460 6677). School for Wives by Molière, adapted by Miles Malleon. Until Mar 31, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 8pm.

Terry Scott, Julie Dawn Cole, Peter Woodward, directed by Roger Redman, in a straightforward adaptation of a classical comedy of romance and marriage.

**COVENTRY:** The Venue, Belgrade (0203 20205). Falkland Sound/Voces de Malvinas. Until Mar 17, Tues-Sat at 7.45pm.

Originally presented by the Royal Court Theatre and subsequently toured, this piece is built upon the words of combatants and civilians on both sides of the Falklands campaign. Directed by Ivor Benjamin.

**DUKA:** Transfers to the West End in April.

**HORNCHURCH:** Queens Theatre (45 43333). *Swag* by Ian Butler. Until Mar 24, Tues-Sat at 8pm; matinees Sat at 3pm.

New comedy by successful television writer, concerning a middle-class couple who are forced to reassess everything in their lives when their home is burgled and vandalized. Jennie Linden and Doug Fisher head the cast directed by Paul Tomlinson.

**LEEDS:** Playhouse (0532 442111). *Trafalgar* by Claire Luckham. Until Mar 17, Wed-Sat at 7.30pm, Mon and Tues at 8pm.

Chris Bond, director of the original West End production, is again in charge of this play which stages a

floral battle of the sexes: funny and very lively.

**MANCHESTER:** Royal Exchange (061 633 8833). *Jumpers* by Tom Stoppard. Until Apr 7, Mon-Tues at 7.30pm, Wed-Sat at 8pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat 4pm.

Julie Walters, Tom Courtenay, John Bennett, Barry Jackson, directed by Nicholas Hytner in a revival of Stoppard's farcical moral comedy.

**NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE:** Playhouse (0632 323421). *Shoppers* by Peter Terson. Until Mar 24, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm.

Commissioned by the theatre, this play looks at the practice of local women who turn to striptease work to boost family income during the recession. John Blackmore directs.

**NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE:** Theatre Royal (0632 323421). *RSC Season. The Comedy of Errors*. Final performances today at 2pm and 7.15pm.

Adrian Noble directs Paul Greenwood, Peter McNary, Richard O'Callaghan, Jane Booker, Joseph O'Connor, Julius Caesar. Opens Tues at 7.15pm. Wed and Thurs at 7.15pm; matinee Thurs at 2pm. In repertory Ron Daniels directs Joseph O'Connor, David Schofield, Peter McNary, Emma Jones. Measure for Measure. Fri at 7.15pm. In repertory Daniel Massey, Peggy Mount, Richard O'Callaghan, Juliet Stevenson, directed by Adrian Noble.

**WATFORD:** Palace (0923 25671). *On the Spot* by Edgar Wallace. Until Mar 31, Mon-Thurs at 7.45pm, Sat at 8pm; matinee Mar 24 at 3pm.

Simon Callow, James Warwick play gangster and commissioner in 1920s Chicago. Shaun Curran Maurice Colbourne lend support; Rob Walker directs.

## PREVIEW Galleries

### Critics' choice

Rare opportunity to see in the West End such stunning works from the Dulwich Picture Gallery collection as Rembrandt's *Girl at a Window* and Poussin's *Rinaldo and Armida*. Best take the chance now as next year the show visits the United States.

**WILLIAM MORRIS TODAY** Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1 (930 3647). Until April 29, Tues-Sat noon-5pm. Admission 50p, children under 14 free.

An exhibition to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of William Morris, epic poet, storyteller, inspiration of the arts and crafts revival and utopian socialist, whose influence lives on in his bold and naturalistic designs for wallpaper and fabrics. The exhibition sets

Morris's work and ideas in the context of both Victorian Britain and the present day and makes use of cartoons, maps, photographs, video and computers.

**THE KESSLER BEQUEST** Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (821 1313). Until Apr 29, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm.

When Mrs A. F. Kessler died last year at the age of 93, she left the Tate Gallery one of the most important groups of nineteenth and twentieth-century foreign paintings it has received since the war. Her family were friends and patrons of Dufy, and the bequest includes four major paintings by him; also on show are a fine Degas pastel, two late Renoir oils, a Lautrec of a woman on horseback, and significant works by Picasso.

**JOHN HUBBARD** Fischer Fine Art, 30 King Street, St James's, London SW1 (838 3342). Until Mar 17, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm.

The recent works of this American-born painter, long resident in England, continue the line of abstracted landscapes he has made peculiarly his own: large oils on canvas and smaller works on paper which evoke the feelings of light and space in Dorset or (this time) the area around Vauchoux, in delicate veils and flurries of exquisite colour.

**THREE BRITISH MUSEUM SHOWS** Paintings and Drawings Gallery, British Museum, London WC1 (638 1555). Until Apr 29, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm.

Etchings by Rembrandt depicting scenes from the Passion are shown with some of his more unusual etchings of contemporary characters in Amsterdam. Drawings by Claude Lorrain, Canaletto and others reflect the influence of landscape on Italian schools of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. And an anonymous private collector has lent a selection of his German drawings, including works by Dürer, Baldung and Schönbauer.

**THE CITY'S PICTURES** Barbank, Silk Street, London EC2 (638 4141). Tues-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun noon-6pm.

A semi-permanent display of paintings and sculpture belonging to the Corporation of London is on show for the rest of the year. Many of the 70 or so works are well known Pre-Raphaelite paintings.

**SHERIFFS** Main and Terrace Towers, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (828 2033). Until Mar 24, Mon-Sat 10am-11pm.

Probably best remembered for his regular caricatures of film personalities in French between 1946 and his death in 1961, Robert Stewart Sheriff's first achieved fame in the 1920s when he illustrated a series of barbed impressions of current celebrities.

Second overall edict in the "Photographs in Context" series. This one, organized by Paul Yule, champions the work of Martin Chambi, a little known Peruvian photographer whose main body of

work documents both rich and poor inhabitants of Peru during the early part of this century. Yule, who has

Chambi's work alongside already accepted masters such as Cartier-Bresson, Langlois and Eugene Smith, and argues forcefully that Chambi's synthesis, arrived at in isolation from European influences, is equally important.

**JULIA MARGARET CAMERON** John Hansard Gallery, The University, Southampton (0703 559122). Until Apr 28, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm.

Incredible though it may seem, Julia Margaret Cameron was an amateur given a camera by her daughter in 1839. Through Alfred Lord Tennyson, a neighbour on the Isle of Wight, she was soon photographing many well known literary figures of the day: Sir John Herschel, Thomas Carlyle and Holman Hunt are just three among a galaxy of craggy-faced Victorians seen in a romantic pictorialist way.

**EUGENE ATGET: PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD FRANCE** Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W8 (402 6075). Until Mar 25, daily 10am-5.30pm.

Eugene Atget, who died in 1927, saw much of his work as merely reference from which painters could make art. His subject was often Paris, or as here, the Ile-de-France. He pointed his camera at whatever interested him and saw what he wanted to record

with astonishing clarity. The legacy of his documentation is unsurpassed: quiet country lanes, sleepy villages, trees, vines, crawling over ancient cottages, all taken at the turn of the century.

**ANGUS MCBEAN** National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (633 0860). Until Mar 24, Mon-Sat 11am-10pm.

Retrospective show for the doyen of theatre photographers, who combined theatre work with portraiture, where he employed the language of the surreal. The images, though often bizarre, are always inventive and laced with visual puns and humour. McBean's world is a stage-managed and refined place which is always striving to exude the virtue of beauty. A visual treat which is not to be missed.

**THE BRIDGE** Impressions Gallery, 17 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 (0204 547324). Until Mar 24, Tues-Sat 10am-6pm.

New work by Victor Burgin, whose conceptual explorations continue to blur the distinction between art and photography. Here he takes as his starting point that moment in Hitchcock's *Vertigo* when Madeleine throws herself into San Francisco Bay. Burgin's relentless demands on the viewer make him one of the most difficult but sometimes most rewarding artists to come to terms with.



Image of The Week: Indians in Cusco, Peru, 1928, where they had gone to court over a land dispute, one of the sensitive documentary photographs of Martin Chambi (see below)

## Photography

**BILL BRANDT: LITERARY BRITAIN** Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (01-589 5371). Until May 20, Mon-Thurs 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm.

The V & A had originally hoped to stage a retrospective of Brandt's work as an eightieth birthday tribute to the master. But Brandt, with sad prescience, thought this unwise in case he "didn't make it". He died last December. This show directs our attention back to the quiet landscapes he published as a book in 1951 with an accompanying text by acknowledged writers. They represent a romantic style which he was later to abandon. Many of the exhibited prints were made by Brandt himself. Not to be missed.

**MARTIN CHAMBI: PHOTOGRAPHS IN CONTEXT II** The Photographers' Gallery, 5 & 8 Great Newport Street, London WC1 (01-240 1969). Open Thurs, until Apr 14, Tues-Sat 11am-7pm.

Second overall edict in the "Photographs in Context" series. This one, organized by Paul Yule, champions the work of Martin Chambi, a little known Peruvian photographer whose main body of

## Young talent blossoms in conflict and culture shock

The curtain goes up next week on four works written by the cream of Britain's aspiring young playwrights. Two will be given full productions while the other two get rehearsed readings.

They have been chosen as the best of more than 400 entries in the Royal Court Theatre Young Writers Festival. The final selection was made by a panel of writers and directors connected with the Royal Court. All the entrants were aged under 20. The festival was first held in 1973. This year, for the first time, it will include a one-day programme of readings of plays by younger writers aged 12 to 15.

The two main productions are *Unity* by Jane Anning and *The Hitch-Hiker* by Eileen Dillon. They form a double bill which will be performed each evening during the festival. Both are directed by Jules Wright.

*Unity* tells the story of a young woman's struggle against alcohol and her adolescent fear of sex. Jane Anning, who is 17, was born and brought up in Plymouth. This is her first play to be given a full professional

production. She is now preparing for an A level in theatre studies and is also on a youth training scheme at a Plymouth hotel.

Eileen Dillon's *The Hitch-Hiker* is the tale of a young girl's summer holiday in the Irish Republic. It surveys the changes she undergoes, underlining the political and cultural differences between the Irish farming family for whom she works and her own middle-class English background. Eileen, aged 19, lives in south London and plans to work on voluntary aid schemes in Europe this year.

The other two plays - *Manjit* by Lakshmi Singh and *The S. Bend* by Marie Schodt - will be staged on readings on three afternoons each. There will also be open rehearsals on some mornings as well as the Younger Writers' Day on April 7. The festival may be extended to April 14.

C.W.

*Unity* and *The Hitch-Hiker* will be on at the Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London SW1 (730 5174) from Tues until Apr 7, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm. Telephone for other times and dates.



Courtesy and Walters in *Jumpers* (Royal Exchange, Manchester)

## Dance

**BALLET RAMBERT** Sadler's Wells (278 8916). Tues until Mar 31, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Mar 20 and 28 at 2pm.

A three-week season opens with Robert North's new *Ensemble des Aquas*, evoking the style of the flamenco, on a programme of this week with Ashton's *Capriccio Suite* and Five Brahms Waltzes and Christopher Bruce's *Concordia*.

Three other London premieres and a world premiere by Richard Alston are scheduled to follow in later programmes.

**ROYAL BALLET** Covent Garden (240 1066). Tonight, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri at 7.30pm.

*Romeo and Juliet* returns to the repertory Tues with Lesley Collier and Anthony Dowell in the leads. Collier also dances tonight's *Swan Lake* with Wayne Eagling. Elizabeth Patel makes the last of her guest appearances Mon with Jay Jolley partnering. Stephen Jefferies dances Ashton's *Rhapsody* for the first time Thurs, partnering Karen Paisley. Collier and Eagling dance those roles Fri and the programme also includes *Enigma Variations* and Nijinska's not-to-be-missed *Les Noises*.

**LONDON CITY BALLET** Brighton, Royal (0273 28488). Mon until Mar 17 at 7.45pm, matinee Mar 17 at 2.30pm.

This small company has attracted much attention by getting the Princess of Wales as its patron. On Fri and Sat they give the British

premiere of the Carmen ballet she saw recently in Oslo. For the rest of the week they perform their small-scale interpretation of *Swan Lake*.

**FESTIVAL BALLET** Oxford, Apollo (0865 244544). Today at 2.30 and 7.30pm.

Plymouth, Royal (0752 558595). Mon until Mar 17 at 7.30pm, matinee Mar 17 at 2.30pm.

The dramatic and romantic new production of *Olegin* (music by Tchaikovsky, choreography by John Cranko) is given Mon-Wed.

Other performances are *Scherzade* with Bournonville's *Napoli* dances and Ben Stevenson's *Four Last Songs*.

**SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET** Eastbourne, Congress (0323 33363). Today at 2.30 and 7.30pm.

Bristol, Hippodrome (0272 299444). Mon until Mar 17 at 7.30pm, matinees Tues, Mar 17 at 2.30pm.

The programme today and next Fri and Sat, includes a new production of *Reveries* with the classical *Raymonda* Act II and David Bintley's *Chorus*. Coppelia on Mon, Tues, and Bintley's epic *Swan of Tuohela*, to music by Stravinsky, on Wed, Thurs.

**Theatre:** Irving Wardle and Anthony Masters. Photography: Michael Young. Galleries: John Russell Taylor; Dance: John Percival.

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مكتبة الأصل

THE PRE-RAPHAELITES  
Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (821 1313). Until May 28, Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm.

The first major show for many years, and first ever on this scale, devoted to Pre-Raphaelitism as a movement rather than to any individual member of the brotherhood. Interest is concentrated on the years when it really was a movement, with something approaching a shared aesthetic as well as close personal ties of friendship (1848-60); but the exhibition also shows what happened to the various principal figures as they drifted apart, and documents a number of followers and fellow-travellers.

**TREASURES FROM DULWICH**  
Agnew, 43 Old Bond Street, London W1 (829 6176). Until Apr 19, Mon-Fri 9.30am-5.30pm.

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PREVIEW Films

# Curiously endearing tragi-comedy

"I see it as a comedy though a strange one", James L. Brooks remarked about *Terms of Endearment*, which he wrote, produced and directed from a novel by Larry McMurtry. It is strange indeed: people wrangle and row as though they were part of a tempest-tossed drama by John Cassavetes; one of them succumbs to a terminal illness, ushering in a finale full of nobility and tears.

Yet this chameleon style has not deterred the voting members of Hollywood's Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: *Terms of Endearment* enters the Oscar race with 11 nominations, including best picture, best director, best actress, best supporting actor, and best screenplay adaptation.

The film seems strange in another way. On television, James L. Brooks is a master of finely chiselled comedy half-hours during the 1970s he helped to instigate, write and produce *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Rhoda*, and *Taxi*. *Terms of Endearment* leaps around for over two hours, nervously chronicling some 30 years in the lives of a strong-willed, widowed mother (Shirley MacLaine) and a fond but combative daughter (Debra Winger). "There is never a moment in the picture that takes you to the next moment, or the next place", Brooks says.

But if his structural sense seems in temporary abeyance, Brooks makes full use of his gift for pinpointing characters through striking lines. "Would you like to come in?" MacLaine asks her boorish ex-astronaut

neighbour, played by Jack Nicholson. "I'd rather stick needles in my eyes", he snarls.

Nicholson's astronaut is nowhere to be found in McMurtry's book; the author - well-used to Hollywood after *Hud* and *The Last Picture Show* - happily allowed the director to adapt the material as he saw fit. Brooks first optioned the novel in 1979, four years after publication; it took a further three years of research and production hiccups before Paramount gave the green light.

Brooks and his photographer Andrzej Bartkowiak soaked themselves in the middle American domestic scene by studying Norman Rockwell illustrations and films like *The Best Years of Our Lives*. The company then set out on location - in Houston, in Lincoln (Nebraska), briefly in New York.

This is Brooks's debut as a director, though he has twice worked for the big screen before. He produced and wrote a lively comedy called *Thursday's Game* in 1971 (belatedly packaged as a television movie in 1974); and he worked with Alan J. Pakula on *Starting Over* (1979). After *Terms of Endearment* and the Academy Awards ceremony on April 9, his cinema career should be far sturdier; it would be another strange comedy if a film nominated for 11 Oscars came away clutching nothing.

Geoff Brown

*Terms of Endearment* opens in London on Fri at the Empire, Leicester Square (437 1234).



Close combat: Shirley MacLaine and Debra Winger

## Critics' choice

### THE BIG CHILL (15)

Cinecitta Park Street (930 0631)  
Classic Oxford Street (636 0310)  
Odeon Kensington (602 6644)  
Screen on the Green (226 3520)  
Warner West End (439 0791)  
Former students from the 1950s gather at a funeral to survey the effects of time. A comic collage of human behaviour, slightly shallow but with neat, vivid ensemble playing (Tom Berenger, William Hurt, Kevin Kline). The second film of writer-director Lawrence Kasdan, previously acclaimed for *Body Heat*.

### CAN SHE BAKE A CHERRY PIE? (15)

Classic Tottenham Court Road (636 6148)  
Institute of Contemporary Arts (636 3647) until Thurs  
A self-obsessed, divorced health addict meets a neurotic abandoned wife on a Manhattan sidewalk; they enjoy a fraught romance. This could only be the work of director Henry Jaglom, the wayward American independent who struck comic gold with the low-budget, semi-improvised *Sitting Ducks*. A marvellous exploration of human relationships, true and tender, and radiantly erotic.

### CARMEN (15)

Curzon (489 2737/8)  
Carlos Saura's second collaboration with dancer Antonio Gades and his troupe. Rehearsals for a flamenco-style *Carmen* ballet are interwoven with a weak story of jealous love. Less potent than the magical *Blood Wedding*, but the dancing remains irresistible. With Gades and Laura del Sol.

### THE HONORARY CONSUL (18)

Classic Chelsea (352 5096)  
Classic Haymarket (839 1527)  
Adaptation of Graham Greene's novel with Michael Caine both comic and touching as the disreputable and boozy title character and Richard Gere as Dr. Plarr. Directed by John Mackenzie, with Bob Hoskins.

### LIANNA (18)

Cinecitta Park Street (930 0631)  
Screen on Baker Street (935 2772)  
Screen on the Hill (435 3366)  
A married woman drifts into a lesbian relationship with her night-school teacher - a situation created by American writer-director John Sayles with tact, wit and clever use of modest resources. Marvellous lead performances from Linda Griffiths, Jane Hallaren and Jon DeVries.

### REAR WINDOW (PG)

Classic Piccadilly Circus (437 1234)  
One of Hitchcock's most audacious thrillers returns to public prominence after years in limbo. James Stewart stars as the photographer who locates a nasty murder in his telephone lens while nursing a broken leg.

### THE RIGHT STUFF (15)

ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)  
Warner West End (439 0791)  
Tom Wolfe's novel about America's space pioneers, brought to the screen as a sumptuous, three-hour epic. The style veers between irreverent comedy and worshipful, patriotic drama; compulsive viewing with sharp insights into space-race ballyhoo. Written and directed by Philip Kaufman; with Ed Harris, Scott Glenn and Sam Shepard.

### RUMBLE FISH (18)

Lumiere (636 0851)  
Francis Coppola's latest film defies all categories: a black and white fantasy about youthful hopes and alienation, shot with determined poetic intent and meshed with a riveting rhythmic score by Stewart Copeland from the rock group The Police. Featured players Matt Dillon and Mickey Rourke effortlessly merge into the crazy fabric of shadows, scudding clouds and surreal compositions.

### STAR 80 (18)

ABC Fulham Road (370 2636)  
Classic Haymarket (839 1527)  
Gate Bloomsbury (837 1177)  
Adaptation of Michael Caine's novel with Michael Caine both comic and touching as the disreputable and boozy title character and Richard Gere as Dr. Plarr. Directed by John Mackenzie, with Bob Hoskins.

although the seedier side of show business is explored with relish. Eric Roberts (as the murderous husband) offers a stirring portrait of unbridled megalomania. Mariel Hemingway as the starlet copes well with a passive role.

### STREET FLEET (15)

ABC Edgware Road (723 5901)  
Classic Oxford Street (636 0310)  
Plaza Piccadilly Circus (437 1234)  
No use looking to writer-director Joel Schumacher for finesse, but the rule warm vigour of this comedy about Washington's most disreputable taxi firm has a definite appeal. A bustling cast includes the huge Mr T (from *Rocky III*), and TV's *The A Team* and Charlie Barnett. An energetic comic discovered by Schumacher on the New York streets. Released in America as *D.C. Cab*.

### TESTAMENT (PG)

Gate Bloomsbury (837 1177)  
Gate Notting Hill (221 0220)  
Nuclear war comes to a small American town in the doomsday narrative unfolds with no flinching, no jokes, and a strong emphasis on maternal love. Jane Alexander



Nuclear family: An anxious. Ross Harris in Testament

stars as the mother holding on to family life while society crumbles. The feature film debut of director Lynne Littman, experienced in television and documentary. With William Devane, Ross Harris and Rowana Zal.

### TO BE OR NOT TO BE (PG)

Odeon Haymarket (930 2735)  
Odeon Kensington (602 6644)  
Ernst Lubitsch's acerbic wartime comedy classic about Polish actors outwitting Nazi minions, refreshingly remade as a vehicle for Mel Brooks and his wife Anne Bancroft. The original script's brilliant structure survives unaltered (along with much dialogue); the playing is agreeable, provided one forgets Jack Benny and Carole Lombard. Directed by Alan Johnson; with Tim Matheson, Charles Durning, José Ferrer.

### UNDER FIRE (15)

Odeon Marble Arch (723 2011/2)  
Classic Chelsea (352 5096)  
Odeon Kensington (602 6644)  
Three journalists covering the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979 find their personal and professional allegiances pushed to breaking point. An old Hollywood plot rattles about in Roger Spottiswoode's thriller like old dried peas in a gleaming new pod. But the action is excitingly staged, and Spottiswoode finds good use for Nick Nolte's monolithic presence, Joanna Cassidy and Gene Hackman.

### VERTIGO (PG)

Classic Chelsea (352 5096)  
Electric Screen (formerly Electric, Portobello Road) (229 3694)  
Plaza Piccadilly Circus (437 1234)  
Long-awaited revival of Hitchcock's 1958 thriller, in which James Stewart's ex-detective with a fear of heights is obsessed and confused by Kim Novak. Sleek and preposterous on the surface, with turbulent emotions bubbling underneath (admirably complemented by Bernard Herrmann's anguished score).

## Films on TV

More than any of the other famous Ealing comedies of the 1940s and 1950s, *Passport to Pimlico* (BBC2, Fri, 5.40-7.05pm) is rooted in reality. Given the premise from which the film starts, it is not difficult to imagine a similar sequence of events.

It was made in 1948 and accurately reflects the look and mood of post-war Britain, with the bomb-sites still not cleared and a people fed up with rationing and the other burdens of the austerity years.

While it is fanciful to read the film as an attack on the Attlee government, *Passport to Pimlico* does echo the widespread feeling of the time that after six years of war the population deserved better than a further dose of wartime deprivation.

Superimposed on this background is the brilliant notion of the scriptwriter, T. E. B. Clarke, that a part of London might discover that it belonged to a foreign state and could tell the bureaucrats what to do with their petty restrictions and cheerless remedies.

Clarke's idea was not all that far-fetched. He discovered that deposed monarchs often declared their place of exile to be part of their own country and it was not entirely inconceivable that the last ruler of Burgundy had made his home in Pimlico.

Imagine, then, that an unexploded bomb goes off (as they did after the war) and reveals an ancient charter which links Pimlico with the ancient French duchy. The good, put-upon citizens of Attlee's Britain suddenly have their freedom: they can throw their ration books away, have a drink whenever they want and stop tube trains at the "frontier" for a passport check.

The freedom proves illusory. The black-marketeers move in, just as happened in real life, the new Burgundy runs seriously short of food and water and in the end a compromise must be struck. It has been a gentle revolution, with no spilling of blood and little bad feeling; all very Ealing, very British.

In other hands *Passport to Pimlico* could have been a savage satire but Clarke and the professor who authenticates the document, Stanley Holloway, as the friendly neighbourhood greengrocer and Naughton Wayne and Basil Radford repeating the famous double act that started in Hitchcock's *The Lady Vanishes* 10 years before.

The one weakness of *Passport to Pimlico* is its tepid treatment of the romantic sub-plot which has Barbara Murray, as Holloway's daughter, falling for the handsome Burgundian count. Sex, or even the slightest hint of it, was something that Ealing always did its best to avoid.

### Peter Waymark

Also recommended: *Riders of the Purple Sage* (1925): A rare chance to see the cowboy star Tom Mix in one of his silent classics, a Zane Grey story of kidnap and revenge (BBC2, today, 3.20-4.15pm). *Nada* (1974): Claude Chabrol thriller, rescued from its sole classic one other comedy classic, *Genet*, before his early death) gave themselves no deeper purpose than to provide cinematographers with an hour and a half's pleasant diversion.

That is implicit in the casting: Margaret Rutherford as the professor who authenticates the document, Stanley Holloway, as the friendly neighbourhood greengrocer and Naughton Wayne and Basil Radford repeating the famous double act that started in Hitchcock's *The Lady Vanishes* 10 years before.

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## Concerts

**RISEING NOWHERE**  
Today, 7.30pm, Royal Northern College of Music, 124 Oxford Road, Manchester (061 273 4504)  
Schumann's *And the Mountains Rising* Nowhere receives its British premiere from the RNCM Symphony Orchestra under Timothy Raynish. He also conducts Mahler's Symphony No 1, and Rachael Brown solos in Nielsen's *Rite Concerto*.

**MEINELSON/DIUS**  
Tomorrow, 8pm, Festival Theatre, Sea Front, Pelgrum (0903 55841)  
Apart from Beethoven's Symphony No 8, this Bourne-mouth Sinfonietta concert contains some fairly unusual items. After Lennox Berkeley's *Divertimento* comes Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No 1 (soloist, Marjorie Pawlik) and two poetic Delius pieces, *Summer Night on the River* and *On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring*. Norman Del Mar conducts.

**WALID HOWRANI**  
Tomorrow, 8.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 35 Wigmore Street, London W1 (930 2141, credit cards 930 2252)  
Walid Howrani, a pupil of Yakov Zak and Gilels, offers Schütz-Euler's exorbitantly difficult *Arabesques on the Blue Danube*, Beethoven's *Coriol Variations*, a Debussy group and Beethoven's Sonata Op 2 No 3.

**JORGE BOLET**  
Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Barbican

Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (025 8755, credit cards 638 8891)  
Sunday's other special piano recital is given by the great Jorge Bolet, who plays large Chopin and Liszt groups including several études, Chopin's Ballade No 1 and Liszt's *Benediction and Ballade* No 2.

**WOOD'S VIOLIN CONCERTO**  
Tomorrow, 8pm, The Pavilion, Hemel Hempstead (0442 64451)  
Manougu Papikian is the soloist in a rare performance of Hugh Wood's fine Violin Concerto with the Hemel Hempstead Orchestra under Thomas Loten. Before and after come Weber's *Der Freischütz* Overture and Brahms's Symphony No 1.

**TINTINNALOGIA**  
Tues, 7.30pm, British Music Information Centre, 10 Stamford Place, London W1 (499 8357)  
Peter Sieveright plays much out-of-the-way British piano music: Wilson-Dickson's *Tintinnalogia*, Ronald Stevenson's *Peter Grimes* Fantasy, sonatas by Nigel Osborne and Constant Lambert, and the London premiere of *Kamp's Nine Dances* by Trevor Hold. Admission free.

**ABIGAIL RUSHWORTH**  
Tues, 7.30pm, Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (328 3181, credit cards 328 5544)  
The violinist Abigail Rushworth offers a weighty programme consisting of sonatas by Bach (BWV 1001), Mozart (K 305),



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**ULPIRRA, WARARA, AJIAL**  
Wed, 7.30pm, Purcell Room  
A typically adventurous programme by Suorana includes Fanny's *Ulpirra*, Warara, Ajial, Redgate's *Ausgangspunkt*, Scott's *Hyxos*, Benio's *Canti Popolari* and Feldman's *Only*.

**DODGSON'S ESSAY**  
Fri, 12.15pm, Royal Northern College of Music  
Nicholas Braithwaite conducts the BBC Philharmonic in the world premiere of Stephen Dodgson's *Essay for Orchestra*. They also give a rare outing to Liszt's *Berkeley's* Symphony No 2, and Wolfgang Manz solos in Mozart's Piano Concerto K453.

**GEISSLER'S ESSAY**  
Thurs, 7.30pm, BBC Maida Vale Studio 1, Delamare Road, London W9  
Fritz Geissler's *Essay for Orchestra* precedes Hindemith's *Konzertmusik* Op 49 and Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements* in this programme by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Günther Herbig. Admission free.

**ACCEPT MY EARS**  
Fri, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall  
Vanya Milanova's unusual violin recital includes Thomas's *Please Accept My Ears*, Paganini's *Nel cor più Variations*, a march and ragaudon by Purcell, a Sonata (D 384) by Schubert and a Sonata (Op 45) by Grieg. Enter Henning Smeyne is at the piano.

## Opera

Covent Garden  
In a week dominated by ballet, *Peter Grimes* is in splendid isolation, with performances on Wed and Mar 17. The Royal Opera's revival is looking good and is reinvigorated by the baton of its musical director-elect, Bernard Haitink. He steers a vintage cast led by Jon Vickers and Heather Harper. This time round, Alfred Hodgson takes on the role of Mrs Sedley, with Jonathan Summers returning as Bakstrod and Elizabeth Bainbridge as Auntie. (240 1066)

**English National Opera**  
Three good-looking productions are on offer this week, centring round the return of Britten's coronation opera, *Gladiator* (Wed and Mar 17), with Sarah Walker as Queen Elizabeth, Anthony Rolfe Johnson as Essex and Mark Elder in the pit. Tonight and Fri, Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates* is slyly and meticulously revived, with particularly strong performances from Derek Hammond-Stroud as Bunthorne and Anne Collins as Lady Jane. On Tues and Thurs, *The Barber of Seville* swaggers back. (838 3181)

**Kent Opera**  
Their new spring touring season opens with a new production by Norman Platt of Mozart's *Servaggio* (Thurs and Mar 17) at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford (0322 77331). Ivan Fischer conducts. Jonathan Miller's production of Verdi's *Falstaff*, with Thomas Hamlet in the title role, is on Fri at Dartford. (The third opera in the tour, Offenbach's *Robinson Crusoe*, appears at Norwich next week.)

**Welsh National Opera**  
Tonight's performance of *The Valkyrie*, conducted by Richard Armstrong, is the company's last at Cardiff for a time. On Tues, a five-day visit to the Empire Theatre, Liverpool (051 709 1555) opens with their restlessly merry *Merry Widow*, whose non-stop dance routines may have become a little more stylish by now (also Thurs). *Valkyrie*, with Reginald Goodall back in the pit, appears on Wed and Mar 17, and in between, on Fri, the best bet of the week is the Fourtney/Armstrong presentation of Janáček's *Jenufa*.

**Opera North**  
Their revived *Tosca*, now sung for the first time in Italian, arrives at the Grand, Leeds, this week (Wed and Mar 17) with young Bulgarian soprano Valeria Popova in the title role. Kristian Johansson as Cavaradossi and Brant Ellis as Scarpia. Just one performance this week of Opera North's new production of Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* (Thurs). Felicity Palmer and Patricia Rozario take the title roles. (0532 439999)

**Opera 80**  
Their tour continues with the excellent new 1982-style *Traviata* and the revived *Così fan tutte*. This week they are at the Pools Arts Centre (0202 685222), with *La Traviata* on Mon and Wed and *Così* on Tues before moving on to Wyvern Theatre, Swindon (0793 24481), for performances of *La Traviata* on Fri and Mar 17.

**Camden Festival**  
Book now for the single concert performance on Mar 17 of Celia's *Adriana Lecouvreur* by Abbey Opera, conducted by Antony Shelley. Logan Hall, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. (888 7727)

## Rock & Jazz

**HALL & OATES**  
Tonight and tomorrow, Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex (902 1234)  
Purveyors par excellence of background music for smart provincial hairdressers, this fashion-plate duo nevertheless keep coming up with the goods. A prolonged childhood immersion in the "sweet soul" vocal group music of their native Philadelphia is obviously behind such classics as "Sara Smile" and "Kiss On My List".

**SPHERE**  
Tonight and Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (439 0747)  
Dedicated to the music of the late Thelonious Monk this quartet contains the tenor saxophonist Charlie Rouse, an underrated player whose true value is expressed in the fact of his 10 years' service with Monk's own quartet of the 1950s. The skilful bebop pianist Kenny Barron, the masterful bassist Buster Williams and the drummer Ben Riley, complete the ensemble.

**CARMEL**  
Tonight, Manchester Polytechnic; tomorrow, Crucible, Sheffield; Tues, New Ocean Club, Cardiff  
She would like to be known as a "chanteuse", but to me she sounds more like Billie Davis ("Tell Him" - remember?) than Billie Holiday.

**TED CURSON**  
Tonight, Keele University; tomorrow, Strathallan Hotel, Birmingham; Tues, York Arts Centre; Wed, Leadmill Arts

Centre, Sheffield; Thurs, Band on the Wall, Manchester; Fri, Royal, Escape, Brighton  
This American trumpeter's finest hour was his contribution to the Charles Mingus Jazz Workshop which also included Eric Dolphy and Booker Ervin (near Mingus at Antibes, an Atlantic two-LP set), but the intervening quarter-century has deprived him of nothing.

**JUNE & JEAN MILLINGTON**  
Tonight, Digwall's, Camden Lock, Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 (267 4967)  
The Millington sisters were members of Fanny, the all-women rock group of the early 1970s located in time and style somewhere between Goldie and the Gingerbreads and Girlschool. I never thought Fanny particularly distinguished, but the sisters' subsequent development may prove interesting.

**GANELIN TRIO**  
Tomorrow, Warwick University Arts Centre; Wed, St Donat's Arts Centre, Llanelli; Fri, Brewery Arts Centre, Kew  
Their very existence as a group of musicians from Leningrad operating at the outer limits of experimental jazz gives them a novelty value; their extraordinary skill and quite original approach to improvisation makes them worth a visit.

**FLACO JIMENEZ**  
Tomorrow, Albany Empire, Douglas Way, London SE8 (681 3039)  
The Mexican accordionist, first noticed with Ry Cooder's Chicken Skin Band, leads his own rollicking combo from San Antonio, Texas.

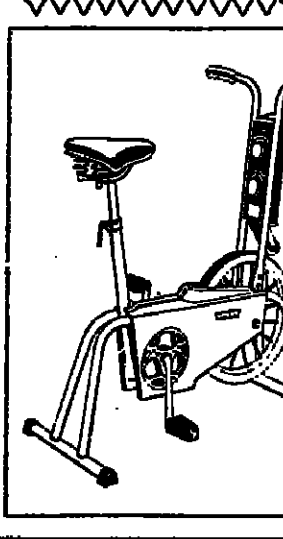
# THE TIMES EXERCISE CYCLE AND SPORTSWEAR OFFER

Fitness experts agree that cycling is one of the most valuable all round forms of exercise, helping to develop the three key qualities of strength, suppleness and stamina. This sturdy well-made exercise cycle will enable you to work out your own fitness programme at home, enjoying the benefits of cycling without the problems of traffic or bad weather conditions. The Cycle has all the important design features at a price which compares favourably with other fitness cycles of a similar quality. It has a sprung height-adjustable saddle; enclosed chain drive; variable strength tension regulator; speedometer, milometer and timer. The frame is made from steel tube with an attractive enamel finish and has a wide base with rubber buffers for stability - the cycle arrives semi-assembled, with instructions for full assembly and an exercise programme.

The stylish Times sportswear set is the ideal outfit for cycling and a wide variety of sporting and leisure activities. American-made by Mr President from a machine-washable combination of cotton and man-made fibres; the whole set is in flecked grey, with 'The Times' printed on each garment in soft navy blue flock. The T-shirts are fine-knit with crew-neck and short sleeves, while the shorts have an elasticated waist, fleecy lining and smart navy blue piping on the seams. Also available is a hooded jacket, made from traditional sweatshirt material with strong metal zip; hood with drawstrings; set in sleeves; stretch knit cuffs and front patch pockets.

These smart versatile garments are ideal for energetic sports and leisure activities as the soft absorbent fabric is light and easy to wear.

## THE TIMES



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Out and About/Riding

# Gentle canter round the rolling, honey-coloured Cotswolds

The really good thing about riding is that you see through two pairs of eyes and two sets of nostrils breathe in the country air. "There is no secret so close as that between a rider and his horse", said Surtees, Roxburgh, my 15.2 Irish grey would have agreed.

The other thing about riding is that you are about the right height to peer over the tops of walls and when those walls happen to be the honey-coloured Cotswold stone variety, with their neat and pretty cottage gardens beyond, that's a distinct advantage.

The name Cotswold Equitation Centre lured me, but when I discovered its exact location I wasn't sure. RAF Brize Norton, with its busy airfield and garrison town of Carterton, the guide book warned me, was "utterly out of character with its surrounding countryside, containing nothing of interest".

Where the Cotswolds begin and end is a subject which arouses strong passions. Carol Hogg, who owns the last house in Carterton, is much geographically and in spirit to the next village of Shilton than to what she calls the "Legoland" up the road.

Anyway our land falls in Heythrop hunting country and that's very definitely "Cotswold", she says defensively.

Local rides are to Holwell and Westwell, with longer rides to the Cotswold Wildlife Park and full day rides to Bibury, Shipton-under-Wychwood and the Colne Valley. Carol, who was to be my escort, suggested we started with Shilton itself as we headed out of the yard and took the road towards Shilton Dip.

One ride took us through what turned out to be the most enchanting village, which made the nearby airfield seem very remote. All the necessary ingredients were there - stream, pond edged with chestnut trees, ford, rose-decked cottages, village green complete with war memorial and stack pump.

We rode on past Shill Brook and the Rose and Crown pub, and up the steep hill beyond the village, from which we took a tuff track on to Shilton Downs. On the road we deliberately stayed two abreast to make the traffic slow down at what seemed a rather tricky stretch of bends, although most of the time it is preferable to ride single-file on the roads.

The track ran on towards



Carol Hogg, who owns the last house in Carterton, is much geographically and in spirit to the next village of Shilton than to what she calls the "Legoland" up the road.

Burford, but we took a circular route to see more of Shilton, this time past the old Norman church and village - and on to Shilton. We crossed by the old stone bridge (it's best to avoid fords in winter if you don't want your horse to get chapped heels).

The surrounding scenery was essentially Cotswold, all rolling valleys with marshy meadows below, dry stone walls, and lots of Cotswold sheep lambing (the name Cotswold is Saxon for "the hills of the sheepcotes"). There was plenty of soft turf for cantering, although there were areas of stony soil too, a characteristic of this region since the limestone lies so close to the surface.

Carol uses OS maps to plan her routes, but a little courtesy to a local farmer can pay dividends. He may show you the bridle paths and allow you to ride over most of his land. It is best to keep to obvious

tracks unless you know wheat from grass, Carol told me, as we picked our way over the stones. "Just because it's green doesn't mean you can ride over it".

She reminded me, too, about not cantering past sheep or cattle, however inviting a field may look, and remembering to put gates carefully so the 10 jollocks chasing you don't squeeze through. Gates, incidentally, are to be opened and closed, not jumped.

Her other caution was not to canter on hard ground or after heavy rain. The former can be slippery and dangerous, while the latter can turn once-grassy bridleways into impassable quagmires.

We returned to the road, taking care to avoid the grass verges (in Carterton, apparently, a bye-law requires you to keep off) and giving clear hand signals, although personally I have always found eye contact with motorists as valuable as hand signals.

Consideration should also be shown to walkers and cyclists and I cast my mind back to one ride I had in the Peak District when an enthusiastic but irresponsible little madam was my escort set off at a mad gallop spurring a party of picknickers with mud.

It sounds like an awful lot of "rules" to apply, but amounts really to nothing more than common sense and courtesy. If you follow the country code, you won't go far wrong.

And even if you get lost, horses have an amazing sense of direction. More than once I have loosened my reins in despair and left it to my steed to carry me home.

It's another of those secrets between horses and riders.

Anne Whitehouse

Finishing your route: There is a right to ride on all highways except motorways and footpaths, although it is safer and pleasanter to avoid motor roads. You may also be able to ride over other land, for example private farms or forestry Commission land, but ask permission first.

The best maps for riders are OS 1:25,000 (approx 2 1/2 in to the mile) as these show field boundaries as well as footpaths and bridleways. Otherwise consult a Definitive Map of Footpaths and Bridleways (copies at county council and parish clerk's offices, and at some local libraries.)

A series of county-by-county map leaflets is being produced by the British Horse Society together with a general leaflet, *Bridleways - How to Find Yours*, which includes the country code. Send a s.a.s. to the British Equestrian Centre, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwickshire. Tel: 0203 52241.

Road riding: The Highway Code is common to motorists and riders, with the exception of a few hand signals peculiar to horsemanship which are shown in the AA leaflet *About Horses and the Highway* from the AA, Farnham House, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 2EA.

Where to hack: Where to Ride (Granada £3.95) gives a county-by-county list of riding and trekking centres.

Cotswold Equitation Centre, 93 Shilton Road, Carterton, Oxon. Tel: 0993 842262. Charges £5-an-hour for a hack.

Chess

## Hard lesson for the masters of the future

Of all the organizers of chess events none has done more to make British chess and in particular junior chess, so successful than Peter Barton who, in recent years, has made West Sussex a real home for future champions. Perhaps the fact that he is a schoolteacher by profession has helped him.

At all events, aided and abetted by a most understanding and helpful headmaster in Stephen Tite and backed by the remarkably helpful Arun District Council, he has succeeded in transforming Westgate School in Ivy Lane, Westgate, near Chichester, into a sort of hive buzzing with throngs of eight-year-old potential Bobby Fischers, Paul Morphys and Gary Kasparovs.

Naturally he could not have achieved this without adequate and generous sponsorship backing in the shape of the Arney Roadstone Corporation.

This year's Young Masters' Chess Congress was probably the strongest of all the four that have taken place. I should explain that it is Peter's excellent practice to mix a crowd of promising youngsters (in an age group of about 10 to 13) with a number of grandmasters and masters, rather like someone casting a number of small boys into the ocean to see if they can swim.

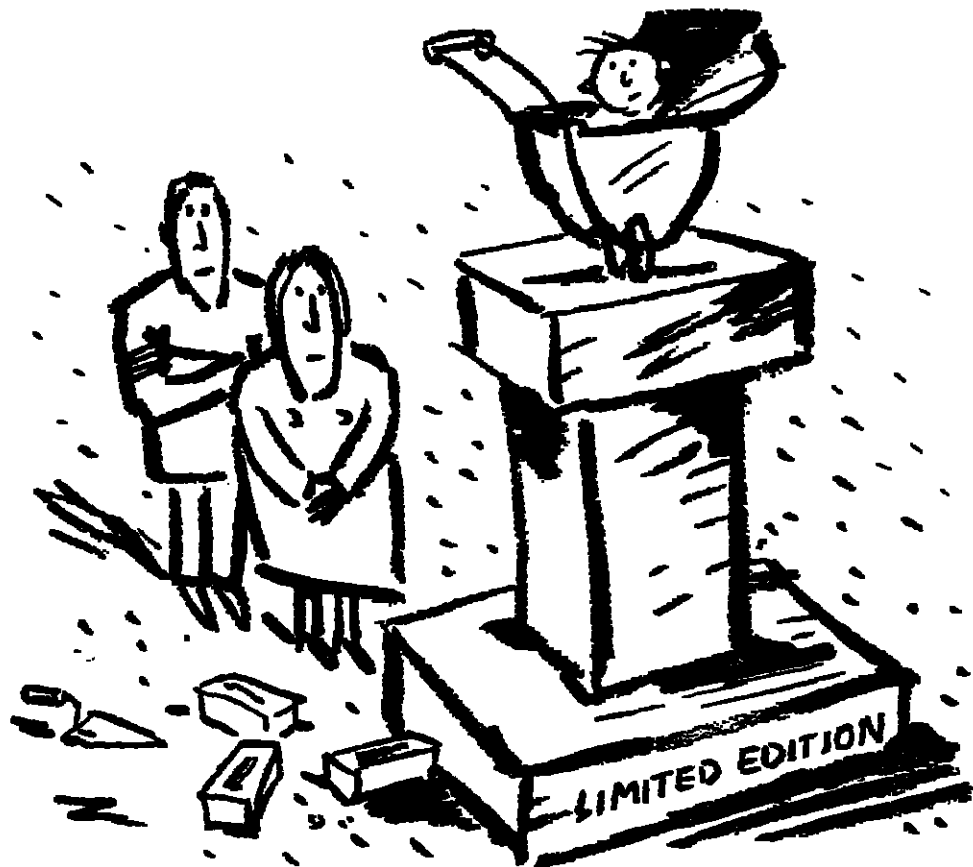
We had this time three very strong English grandmasters, Tony Miles, John Nunn and Jon Speelman and a large number of talented international masters.

The blend was highly successful. Six rounds were played on the Swiss System among 70 players and these produced much well-fought chess. Tony Miles started like a bomb and won his first four games. Then he drew a quick game with John Nunn and in the last round he was convincingly defeated by Paul Littlewood, who produced a magnificent attacking combination involving a piece sacrifice.

Speelman won in sparkling style against Stuart Conquest, the former under-16 world champion, and the talented Glenn Flear, by now a mature 24, won well against a strong opponent in the final round. So Littlewood, Speelman and Flear tied for first place with 5 points each, ahead of K. Berg (Denmark), and N. Davies (A. Martin, A. Miles and J. Nunn, all of whom scored 4 1/2.

Family Life

## Blessing or burden, the only child's lonely lot?



There is an unwritten code of practice which exists between parents, particularly mothers. One of the rules is that you must never criticize another person's child to their face.

But among my friends is one woman who never lets such conventions impede her attempts to set other people's lives to rights. (She remains a friend because beneath a forthright, nay fearless, exterior beats a genuinely benevolent heart.) Recently at a dinner party she went to town, telling one of the guests that her child was a selfish, spoiled little brat. (It happened to be true, but so matter.) As if that wasn't enough, she went on: "You must have expected it, with an only child. They're always difficult, prickly, precocious - probably because they are lonely."

Alas, my forthright friend had unknowingly entered a minefield. For among our party of eight were no less than five only children, all of whom turned on the amateur psychologist like pre-programmed missiles on a target, defending the lone child and waxing positively lyrical about the advantages of being a singleton.

They are at the mercy of parents' prejudices

We need not have bothered. My friend's mind remained closed. "You've only proved my point," she said triumphantly. "You all protest too much! You're all egotists, prickly, opinionated." "Well, maybe," I ventured, "but we're pretty wonderful as well." "Exactly what I'd expect you to say," she pointed a finger at me. "Like all only children, you have an innate conviction that you are superior to everyone else, which actually masks a deep-rooted insecurity because only your parents ever told you you were wonderful and you had no siblings to bring you down to size!"

Rooting somewhat under the attack, we only children compared notes. The most successful

in financial terms at least, confirmed that her parents had told her she was wonderful every day. The most talented, any yardstick, said his parents were never around to tell him the time of day, let alone that he was a good sort.

I chipped in that mine had constantly been exhorting me to greater effort, whatever the task in hand. The most I had ever received from them, whether I had just won the hundred-yard sprint in the borough sports or defeated all comers in a debating competition, was a pat on the shoulder followed by some practical hints on how I could improve my performance next time. Such is the stuff that hurdlers are made of.

Perfectionists who guard their own privacy

Nevertheless, even when negative, our parents' influence was felt keenly by all of us. And on this point, perhaps, our accusing friend nearly got it right. For there is at least one unifying factor among only children - and that is that they are all the single repository of their parents' hopes, fears, aspirations, unfulfilled ambitions, and with no siblings to divert parental attention, only children are at the mercy of parents' plans and prejudices.

As to the other accusations - that we are prickly, egotistic and opinionated - if there is a grain of truth there, surely that is mere coincidence? Not according to Bradford Wilson and George Edington, co-authors of *First Child, Second Child*... or "What your birth order means to you" (Souvenir Press, £7.95). They present a light-hearted series of portraits of oldest, youngest and middle children, various sibling combinations, twins - and the only child. What the book lacks in hard evidence (though the authors claim it is the result of years of research), is compensated for by the amusing way they paint the portraits and the "identikit" components which they provide so that readers may play guessing games

similar to the "Let me guess what sign you are" variety, should they so wish.

Only children, according to Wilson and Edington, have a lot going for them. More serious psychological and educational studies also suggest that only and first-born children expect to be heard, are used to limelight, self-motivated, observant, good at games of bluff, humanitarian, agile at avoiding rows and zealous guardians of their own privacy. On the debit side, they are intolerant, over-reserved, cold, critical, secretive, bad at sharing, perfectionists to the point of irritation and bad at competitive games and in competitive situations.

Pretty strong medicine, but I have to hand it to the authors: after reconsidering those of my friends - a surprisingly high proportion - who are only children in the light of these evaluations, I found the descriptions remarkably accurate. The authors' one serious omission was perhaps not to include "lonely" as a descriptive adjective. All only children feel lonely at some stage during their childhood, and no amount of cousins or friends for tea can compensate for the loss of the supposed joys of sibling companionship.

But the lonely child does not necessarily carry feelings of isolation into maturity. At least half of my friends, like myself, positively relish the all too rare situation of being alone. The other half seek out the distraction of friends, perhaps because they do not like to be reminded of earlier days.

After reading *First Child, Second Child*, with some amusement I rang my boss friend to discover what her "birth order" was. I had made a private bet that she was to quote from the book: "Mother Hen, Everybody's Nanny, General Director of Traffic, or Mum or Dad's Good Right Hand" - in other words, the oldest girl. And, would you believe, I was right.

Judy Froshaug

Bridge

## Defeated by a partner with a mind of his own

The successful rubber-bridge player soon learns that sharp criticism of his partner is counterproductive. Today I like to think that I am a model of moderation. But occasionally the provocation is too great.

Percy is a delightful man, deservedly liked by all. But his game has one idiosyncrasy. In the manner of the modern dancers he "does his own thing".

In a recent rubber, our opponents had a score of 60 when Percy (West) dealt. Rubber Bridge, North-South 60. Dealer West.

♠ 7865  
♥ AKQ3  
♦ K4  
♣ A

♠ AJ4  
♥ Q4  
♦ 108652  
♣ 9

W N E S  
24 20 20 20  
No Double No Double No Double No Double  
No No No No  
Opening lead 7H

Declarer took the lead in dummy, while I encouraged with the ♠7. Lacking entries to his own hand, declarer played a spade to his king, losing to Percy's ace. A careful study of the ceiling was followed by the ♠A and the ♠2. I returned the ♠9, but when declarer took the heart in dummy and continued with the ♣A and the ♣2, Percy finally put paid to the defence by giving me another unwanted ruff.

"Worked out you'd be short in clubs," said Percy, expecting praise for his shrewd switch. Notice the difference if Percy persists with a second heart a trick two. Declarer must play the ace and another diamond otherwise he runs into some destructive crossfire. Now Percy can switch to his wretched ace of clubs. I ruff the second club draw dummy's third trump with the ♠K, and play the ♠J leaving declarer with the impossible task of finding his eighth trick.

We moved to the next hand Percy blithely unaware that anything was amiss. North-South game. Deal North

♠ K74  
♥ 7  
♦ 883  
♣ 10855

♠ 92  
♥ QK10  
♦ AJ1052  
♣ 762

W N E S  
No No No No  
No No No No  
No No No No  
Opening lead 7H

North's bidding was ambitious, to say the least. Declarer won the ♠A and ruffed a heart. I covered the ♠Q with the ♠K which lost to the ♠A. Declarer ruffed his last heart in dummy and continued with the ♠K. I ducked, but took the second round of trumps with the ♠A. Provided Percy had the ♠A, I saw a foolproof defence, returning the ♠9 to lock declarer in dummy.

Foolproof it might have been Percy-proof it wasn't. Declarer played a diamond to his King and Percy's ace, and Percy proudly produced the ♠J. Declarer won that with a look of gratitude, drew my remaining trump, and disposed of his losing diamond on dummy's clubs.

"The game would be fairer" I suggested, "if the rules forbade all defenders to notice or look at their partner's cards".

Predictably, Percy laughed.

Jeremy Flin

# Which page will you turn to first in tomorrow's Sunday Times?

### Machinery of lies

Were splits in the Communist world contrived to deceive the Western democracies? Are the Russians and the Chinese - and the Yugoslavs and Albanians - still comrades under the skin? KGB defector, Anatoliy Golitsyn argues that the West has been subjected to a systematic campaign of disinformation by the Communist powers and their intelligence agencies.

### Mrs Thatcher's next door neighbour

Susan Crosland profiles Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor who presents his first budget next week.

### Books

Christopher Ricks on Germaine Greer, Norman Stone on Rutherford, David Howell on Mrs Thatcher's economics, and Jonathan Raban on Trollope.

### In Look

The boy whose death saved four lives. Uprooted and upwardly mobile - the trauma of the wives whose husbands are promoted and moved abroad at 24 hours notice.

### The Sunday Times, Barclays Bank and Mrs Thatcher's family

Did the Sunday Times deceive Barclays Bank to get details of Mark Thatcher's account? A special investigation.

### IN COLOUR

### Can Lloyd Webber do it again?

A colour report on his new musical "Starlight Express," said to be more spectacular than "Cats".

### Winchester's Europe

Simon Winchester reports on his journey by Rolls Royce from Brittany to Kiev.

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

All for 40p



Paul Littlewood: Magnificent attacking combination

Then came R. Britton, N. Carr, S. Conquest, G. Crawley, C. Crouch, W. Harrison, M. Hebban, J. Howell, A. Kosten, G. Lawton, D. Norwood and A. Povah, 4, and M. Eleanigian, A. Kavanagh, J. Flakett and P. Wells, 3 1/2.

There were 46 more players all capable of producing fine chess and all young.

Here is Flear's neat strategic triumph in the last round of the ARC tournament.

White, G. Flear. Black, G. Lawton. Q.P. Nimzoindian Defence

1 P-Q4    B-N3    2 P-QB4    B-N3  
3 P-QB3    B-N3    4 P-QB3    B-N3  
5 P-QB3    B-N3    6 P-QB3    B-N3  
7 P-QB3    B-N3    8 P-QB3    B-N3  
9 P-QB3    B-N3    10 P-QB3    B-N3  
11 P-QB3    B-N3    12 P-QB3    B-N3

There is no reason for Black to give White such a powerful pair of Bishops; better was 12... B-K2.

13 P-Q4    B-N3    14 P-Q4    B-N3  
15 P-Q4    B-N3    16 P-Q4    B-N3  
17 P-Q4    B-N3    18 P-Q4    B-N3  
19 P-Q4    B-N3    20 P-Q4    B-N3  
21 P-Q4    B-N3    22 P-Q4    B-N3  
23 P-Q4    B-N3    24 P-Q4    B-N3  
25 P-Q4    B-N3    26 P-Q4    B-N3

The sort of purposeless move one makes when one's strategy has completely failed.

21 P-Q4    B-N3    22 P-Q4    B-N3  
23 P-Q4    B-N3    24 P-Q4    B-N3  
25 P-Q4    B-N3    26 P-Q4    B-N3

Imperative was 23... NxB

24 P-Q4    B-N3    25 P-Q4    B-N3  
26 P-Q4    B-N3    27 P-Q4    B-N3  
28 P-Q4    B-N3    29 P-Q4    B-N3  
30 P-Q4    B-N3    31 P-Q4    B-N3  
32 P-Q4    B-N3    33 P-Q4    B-N3  
34 P-Q4    B-N3    35 P-Q4    B-N3  
36 P-Q4    B-N3    37 P-Q4    B-N3  
38 P-Q4    B-N3    39 P-Q4    B-N3  
40 P-Q4    B-N3    41 P-Q4    B-N3  
42 P-Q4    B-N3    43 P-Q4    B-N3  
44 P-Q4    B-N3    45 P-Q4    B-N3  
46 P-Q4    B-N3    47 P-Q4    B-N3  
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## THE WEEK AHEAD

## Today

**CUP FOOTBALL:** With Plymouth drawn against Derby County, at least one team from the lower divisions must reach the semi-finals of the FA Cup. The other semi-final is today at Birmingham City v Watford and Nottingham Forest v Everton, while tomorrow, in front of the television cameras (TV, 2.30-4.30pm), Sheffield Wednesday are at home to the bookmakers' favourite, Southampton. The draw for the semi-finals can be heard live on Radio 2, Mon, 12.30pm.

**LOVE STREAMS:** John Cassavetes' latest film has all the marks of his personal style - fractious family ties, raw emotions, sprawling narratives - though the material is drawn from a play by Ted Allan. Cassavetes and Gena Rowlands star as brother and sister, battling with life and each other. Recently awarded the Silver Bear prize at the Berlin Film Festival. Part 15. The Premiere (formerly Classic) Shaftesbury Avenue; 734 5414.

**WITH A WHIMPER TO THE GRAVE:** Wally K. Daly, whose play *Time Slip* won the Giles Cooper award last year, is the author of the Saturday Night Theatre production which imagines that a benevolent alien force has endowed certain individuals with the ability to read the thoughts of those around them. But the powers have been abused, and the aliens are preparing to abandon Earth to its fate. The strong cast is headed by Timothy West, Patrick Troughton, Angela Thorne and Donald Hewlett. Radio 4, 8.30-10pm.

## Tomorrow

**IN SEARCH OF JOYCE:** A talk by Richard Elman, Goldsmiths' Professor of English Literature at Oxford University, about the years he spent tracking down people and material for his biography of James Joyce and the accidents and unexpected discoveries which are an important element in such a project. He has recently been preparing a biography of Oscar Wilde. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (748 3354) at 4pm. Tickets £1.50.

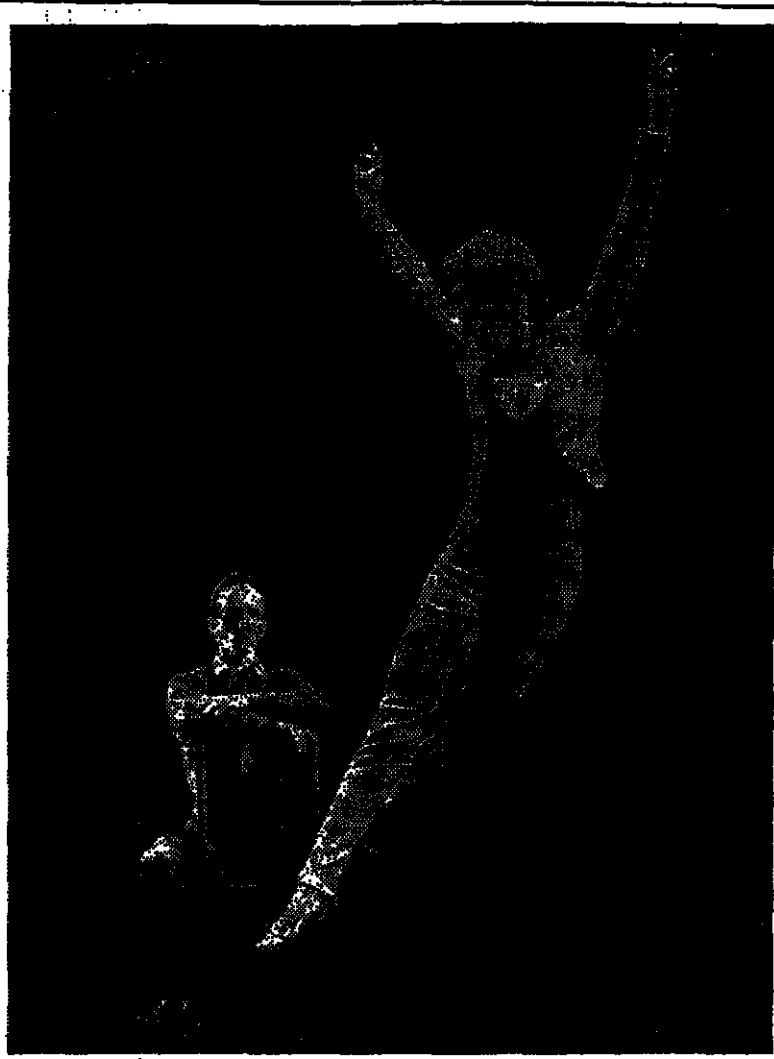
**MOVIE MEMORIES:** A series of Sunday evening programmes of archive film, presented by the cinema historian John Huxley. Today's, entitled "Great Musicians", will cover Second World War aircraft, classic cars, steam railways, folk and variety and jazz. Cinema 20, Barbican Centre, London EC1 (638 8891). All programmes at 7pm, tickets £2.50. On Apr 8, from 2.30pm, there is a "Hollywood marathon" of feature films. *The Great Dictator*, *The Tifflid Thunderbolt*, *The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery* and *Murder on the Orient Express*.

**PRINCESS ANNE ON SPORT:** The Princess, who is president of the British Olympic Association and recently returned from the Winter Games in Sarajevo, talks with Gerald Williams about the Olympic movement and its ideals, competing as a member of the British team in Montreal and the part sport plays in her life. Radio 2, 7.02-7.30pm (repeated Thurs, 3.02-3.30pm).

## Monday

**TEST CRICKET:** England must be hoping that some of their batsmen will be at least as they take on Pakistan in the second Test of the three-match series at Faisalabad. The *Test Match Special* team will be providing ball-by-ball commentary from lunchtime (7.30am our time) to the close of play each day; the rest day is Thurs.

**A NORMAL FACE:** The Horizon programme looks at plastic surgery. It was first developed during the First World War by an



Jump for Joy: Lucy Borge and Paul Meils in Ballet Rambert's *Entre des Agnes* (see Dance, page 16), and James Joyce in Paris in 1938 (see tomorrow)

American dentist, Varaztad H. Kazanjian, who reconstructed the smashed faces of British soldiers on the battlefields of France; the leading practitioner today is a remarkable Frenchman, Paul Tessier, who has pioneered the technique of rebuilding the skull itself. The film shows Tessier at work in Paris and follows an 11-year-old boy through an operation to give him a normal face. BBC2, 9.30-10.20pm.

## Tuesday

**FAT WOMEN AND STICK-MEN:** A Harry Moore chalk and watercolour of two seated women, very round, and Moore-ish, is the star of a sale of modern and contemporary pictures and sculpture. It once belonged to Lord Clark of Salwood; estimate £12,000-£15,000. Lowry still-nest decorates the sale in several works, the best of which is expected to fetch £6,000. Phillips, Blenheim Street, London W1 (629 6602) at 11am.

**CHELTEMHAM FESTIVAL:** The world's most famous National Hunt meeting takes place today, tomorrow and Thurs. The main race this afternoon is the Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle (3.30pm), with the Irish mare Dawn Run emerging as the favourite after the withdrawal of last year's winner, Gaye Brief. In the Gold Cup on Thurs (3.30pm), the trainer Michael O'Brien, who had the first five places the post last year, is leading Bregawn and Wayward Lad. All three days are being covered live on BBC1 and BBC2, starting this afternoon at 2pm.

**ONE FOR THE ROAD/VICTORIA STATION:** Double bill of Harold Pinter plays, of which the former is a world premiere, directed by the author, Alan Bates, Roger Lloyd Pack, Jenny Clukey, Lyric Hammersmith Studio, King Street, London W6 (741

2311). Opens today at 1.15pm. Until Mar 24 and Apr 3-14, Mon-Sat at 1.15pm.

**TOP GIRLS:** Caryl Churchill's award-winning play about women's struggle for independence brings together six women from history for a dinner party. Joanna van Gysegem, Isabelle Anyes, Hilary Dawson head the cast, directed by John David. New Vic, Bristol Old Vic (0272 24388). Opens today at 7.15pm. Until Apr 7, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm, (not Apr 2) Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm.

**YOUNG WRITERS' FESTIVAL:** Double bill of plays at the Royal Court (see page 16).

**NUMBER ONE:** Leo McKern leads in Michael Frayn's English version of a Jean Anouilh play about a successful playwright whose family and friends are after his money. Robert Chatwin directs. Theatre Royal, Windsor (0753 53888). Opens today at 8pm. Until Mar 31, Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinees Thurs at 2.30pm (not this week), Sat at 4.45pm.

**DESERT OF LIES:** Two expeditions, a century and a half apart, to a remote stretch of the Kalahari desert are linked in this play for Thursday by Howard Brenton (best known, perhaps, for his controversial play *The Romans in Britain*). The 1983 travellers, including a journalist and a redundant car worker, are tracking the path of a family who were sent out to Africa in the 1840s by the London Missionary Society. With Charlie Lunghi, Mick Ford and Tom Bell. BBC1, 9.35-11pm.

## Wednesday

**GEORGE HOOPER:** Given that this show is subtitled "Fifty Years of Painting", it is amazing that the name of the artist is not more familiar. But George Hooper, 74 this year, has mostly kept out of the public eye since he won the Royal Academy Gold Medal for his painting "Labour" in 1933. There

have been occasional shows in London at the old Leicester Galleries, but this is the first ever retrospective of his work, which ranges from the sober, slide-style early works to the glowing recent stills in brilliant festive colours. Odeon, Gillyard, 5 Cork Street, London W1 (437 3175). Until Apr 6, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm.

**AMBULANCE MUSEUM:** A new museum tracing the history of the two foundations of the Order of St John, the St John Ambulance Association and the St John Ambulance Brigade, is opened by the Duchess of Gloucester. The association was founded in 1877 to teach first aid and was followed 10 years later by the formation of the brigade, a body of uniformed volunteers which now has a world-wide membership of more than 250,000. St John's Gate, St John's Lane, London E1 (253 6844). Open Tues, Fri and Sat 10am-6pm. Free.

**BRITISH PAINTINGS:** The first oil painting exhibited by Richard Parkes Bonington in England, at the British Institution in 1826, is likely to top auction records when offered at Sotheby's. Bonington was a friend of Delacroix and the French Romanticism, and the painting, "The French Coast with Fishermen", echoes his famous marine watercolours of the period. The sale of British paintings also includes Stubbs's early painting on copper, "Lion and Lioness", removed from long-term loan to the Tate. Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080) at 11am.

**HISTORIC NETS:** Most nets, the tiny buttons or toggles on which Japanese carvers lavished so much time and effort from the nineteenth to twentieth century, but the collection formed by Mr H. G. Beasley between 1919 and 1930 is mostly devoted to the eighteenth century. It includes charming ivory carvatures of the Dutch traders who were allowed to settle on the island of Deshima and visit the mainland for

food. Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1 (493 8080) at 11am.

**LITTLE DOLLS:** A collection of 26 doll-house dolls, 3in high, is expected to make £2,000. They were smuggled out of Russia at the time of the Revolution by an English girl. Also included in today's sale are two French baby dolls from a private collection from Jersey estimated at about £3,000 each. Phillips, Blenheim Street, London W1 (629 6602) at noon.

**THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR:** Nikolai Gogol's great comedy, in an English version by Edward O. Marsh and Jeremy Brooks. Dermot Crowley, Martin Friend and Carol Gillies and Eliza Hunt head the cast, directed by Andy Hindle. Bristol Old Vic (0272 24388). Opens today at 7.15pm. Until Apr 7, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm (not Apr 2), Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Thurs (not this week or Apr 5) at 3pm, Sat at 4pm.

**MARRIAGE:** Gogol's farce about matchmaking in Tsarist Russia opens at the Lyric, Hammersmith (see page 16).

**SWALLOWS AND AMAZONS FOR EVER:** Eight-part dramatization by Michael Robson of *Coot Club* and *The Big Six* two books by Arthur Ransome (who was born 100 years ago) about the adventures of a group of children on the Norfolk Broads. In the early 1930s, in *Coot Club*, Rosemary Leach plays Mrs Barrable, who has taken her nephew and niece on holiday, and Henry Dimbleby, son of the broadcaster David Dimbleby, has his first television role as Tom Dudgeon. BBC2, 7.10-7.35pm.

**INTERNATIONAL BOXING:** Frank Bruno, the young British heavyweight who has won all his 20 fights within the distance, takes on Juan Figueroa of Argentina at Wembley.

There has been no doubt about Bruno's punching ability, but it will be interesting to see whether a recent training spell in the United States has lightened up his defence. The fight is on Sportsnight, BBC1, 10.05-11.13pm.

## Thursday

**THE WAY OF THE WORLD:** Gilles Havergal directs a company including Avis Bunnage, Paula Dionisotti, Rupert Fraser and Julie Legrand in William Congreve's Restoration comedy, which includes, in Milamant, Mirabell and Lady Wamfort, some of the British theatre's most famous comic characters. Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, London, SE10 (858 7755). Opens today at 7pm. Until Apr 21, Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Sat at 2.30pm.

## Friday

**ENGLISH LANDSCAPES:** Constable in smiling and luring mood provides the landscape highlights in an important sale of English pictures. A sunny glimpse of East Bergholt church down a tree-lined lane originally belonged to the Earl of Bradford, and a wide view under luring clouds of "The City of London from Sir Richard Steele's cottage, Hampstead, with the main coach on the road" belonged to the artist's daughter, Isabel, until the 1890s. There is also a fine Hogarth portrait. Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (839 9060) at 11am.

**NEVER CRY WOLF:** A young government biologist (played by Charles Martin Smith) is sent to northern Canada to investigate the supposed destruction by wolves of a herd of caribou. He discovers that it is not wolves that are responsible. A Walt Disney film based on the true story by Farley Mowat and directed by Carroll Ballard. Cert PG. Classic Chelsea (352 5068), Classic Haymarket (839 1527).

**STRANGERS IN LOVE:** Two young Americans meet on holiday and spend a passionate weekend together. They go their separate ways, but spend the next 20 years thinking about and searching for one another. Eventually fate brings them together again. Directed by Chuck Vincent. Starring Jerry Butler and Kelly Nicole. Cert 15. ABC Edgware Road (723 5901), Scene Leicester Square (438 4470), Studio Oxford Circus (437 3900); and selected local ABCs.

**TOUTE UNE NUIT:** A tale of passionate encounters throughout a long, hot night in a European city, each glimpsed only at the moment of climax and allowing the viewer to write his or her own beginning and ending. Written and directed by Chantal Akerman and starring Aurica Clement and Jan Decortis. No certificate. ICA (930 3647).

**TERMS OF ENDEARMENT:** Jack Nicholson and Shirley MacLaine in the film comedy that has been nominated for 11 Oscars (see page 17).

**TREATMENT:** With football hooliganism in the news again recently, this play by Jonathan Moore, a writer new to television, has a topical ring. He plays his own leading character, a South London skinhead who is out of work and lives for the excitement of a night with a soccer gang. At the same time his middle-class girlfriend and a priest give him a glimpse of a different life. Written originally for the theatre, the play won a fringe award at the Edinburgh Festival in 1981. BBC2, 10.05-10.55pm.

## Week following

Mar 17: The Boat Race, Putney to Mortlake, 1pm. Rugby Union: Scotland v France, Murrayfield; England v Wales, Twickenham.

## Country Diary

## Battles for the right to ramble

Oliver Watkinson has put notices up all over his farm informing people that they are welcome to walk across his land but asking them to respect the countryside and not to damage standing crops. Besides being a highly successful farmer, Mr Watkinson is a writer and broadcaster and an iconoclast viewed with deep suspicion by sections of the farming establishment. He would be the first to concede that his 3,000 flat, featureless acres of Cambridgeshire are not everyone's idea of a place to spend a day out. Still, it is a well meant gesture, and one that sadly finds no echo in many more scenic parts of England, where would-be walkers are confronted with wire fences and the distinct impression that if they cross them they will be confronted by hostile landowners and their employees.

The ancient forest of Wyche in Oxfordshire, is claimed to have been crossed by public footpaths from the Middle Ages until the early part of this century. The word claimed is important, since it appears that only one path, on the eastern side of the forest, paralleling the wondrously named river Evenlode, was ever formally designated a public right of way. Country folk, indifferent to such distinctions, continued to use the paths without significant hindrance long after the eighteenth century, and subsequent conversion to pasture had reduced the forest to less than a twentieth of the 50,000 acres it occupied in medieval times. But in the 1950s the then owner, Mr Oliver Watkinson, a member of the brewing family, objected to people continuing to walk through the forest without his permission.

He succeeded subsequently in persuading the county council not to show any paths other than the one referred to above as rights of way on the definitive map of the county. The omission of a former path crossing the forest from south-east to north-west was challenged at a public inquiry in 1977, but the challenge was rejected on the rather curious ground that people no longer used it as a through route but merely as a pleasant walk.

Mr Watkinson was apparently not so much against the public having access to the forest as to their having a legal right to use it. But the present owner, the reclusive Lord Rotherwick, is prepared to admit visitors only by arrangement.

This may look like a case of a bloody-minded landowner determined to keep the rabble from his gates. But in fact, as one of the most important



examples of Britain's rapidly dwindling ancient woodlands, Wyche is a very special place. It is a fragile environment, and the Nature Conservancy is also opposed to unrestricted public access.

Many landowners have legitimate fears about what may happen if they let the public on to their property. Woods may be damaged or set on fire, rubbish dumped, farm gates left open, sheep attacked by dogs and game birds disturbed. Chris Hall, former secretary of the Ramblers' Association and director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, who now runs *The Countryman* magazine, acknowledges the problems. But he believes that they should not be used as the pretext for blanket ban on public access, particularly where *de facto* rights of way have existed for centuries. He plans a renewed campaign to persuade Lord Rotherwick to change his mind.

The Country Landowners' Association, which has long advocated voluntary "access agreements", is also in the past include Church Hill Farm in Buckinghamshire, Bayham Lake in Kent, and Lapsley, also in Hampshire, to name but a very few.

The beginner would be well advised to avoid promising private waters and spend his first few outings fishing the rise on a public water where there is plenty of room for mistakes. He can find a quiet corner, cast without being embarrassed by his failures and possibly get a catch. It is worth spending more money on the private waters once he is proficient.

**Stewart Tendler**  
*Trout Fisherman and Trout and Salmon publish annual guides to stillwater fishing in Britain and Ireland in their April editions which are available towards the end of this month (March). Where to Fish (Harnsworth Publishing, £8.95) will provide a useful guide and the 1984-85 edition is published in April. Local fishing shops often have advertisements for small fisheries which may be worth a try, and all the water authorities provide details of their fishing facilities or request. Trout and Salmon provides a monthly reporting service on fishing conditions during the season and several of the water authorities' newspapers also carry details of main reservoirs and lakes.*

John Young

## Collecting

## Scots trade in cut-price crowns

Over the past 30 years Mr Walter Allen, a coin dealer in Glasgow, has devoted much of his spare time to collecting those coins that were specially countermarked to circulate in Scotland around 1800. Mr Allen and his money are soon to be parted, for his collection is to be sold by Spink Coin Auctions on Wednesday. It will be the largest collection of such coins to be sold since 1960, when a similar group was auctioned in New York.

By the 1790s there was a chronic shortage of any coinage of the realm; no crowns (5-shilling pieces) had been struck since the reign of George II, who had died in 1760. To counteract this shortage there was a booming trade in the Spanish or Spanish colonial dollar. This crown-sized coin circulated freely in currency, usually for 4s 9d.

The Bank of England tried to overcome the problem by overprinting a small head of George III on about 2.5 million coins, but private enterprise soon provided competition, especially in Scotland where traders put their own stamp on dollars in a vigorous attempt to drum up business.

At first, some of the traders thought they would attract even more customers by giving good value, and some early dollars were stamped with 4s 6d. However the move backfired: it was the jewellers rather than the local stores who got the business, as they could sell the coins as bullion for 4s 9d. Then some traders went to the other extreme and stamped their dollars at 5s, but this was also doomed to failure, for every canny Scot knew it was worth only 4s 9d.

The authorities did little to improve the situation. The most common coin issued in the 1790s was the golden "spade" guinea, now a pretty collector's coin, but then a nightmare for any worker paid with one.

The problem was outlined in a long-winded letter published in *The Greenock Advertiser* in December, 1803. The correspondent observed that every family was "tossed with intolerable petty accounts with their baker, their brewer, their butcher, and their fishwife."

He went on: "The case of the tradesman and the labourer is much worse. When they go home to their wives and families with their hard-earned pittance, they are not perhaps,



Stamped out: Guatemalan dollar recycled by a spirit trader



Star item: William Gowans's converted silver dollar

in credit, and hence, in order to get a part of their guinea back in silver, to buy necessities with (silver) are obliged to purchase double or treble the quantity of some article than they can afford to buy; or be reduced to the infinitely worse alternative of drinking two or three shillings of it in a tipping house. And three shillings must have bought a lot in a tipping house in those days.

Mr Allen has spent many hours examining local records, contemporary trade directories and newspapers, and built up a vast correspondence with other collectors. Much of the information he has gathered is published for the first time in the auction catalogue of his collection.

Significantly, in all his years of intensive collecting, he has acquired only 120 coins with counterstamps relating to Scotland, a fair measure of their rarity. There are coins from many of the issuers: Catrine Cotton Works, the Galston Friendly Society, the Glasgow Banking Company, Lanark Mills, Adelphi Cotton Works, the Paisley Dollar Society, Balindalloch Cotton Works, and Culcraigh Mill. Archibald James Hamilton

solved the problem of what to do with the large number of French 5-franc pieces he had acquired during the Napoleonic wars - he had them stamped "payable at Dalzell Farm", and paid them to his estate workers. Of the hundreds or even thousands issued, only 24 are recorded and five of these are in Mr Allen's collection.

The auction catalogue lists six Rothsay Cotton Mill dollars stamped with the value 4s 6d, and of the 30 specimens Mr Allen could locate, eight are already in institutional collections. William Kelly, the mill owner, also saw the chance of making small change from his dollars, and one out in half was stamped 2s 6d.

In 1803 the Thistle Bank in Glasgow invested 3s 6d in the dies to counterstamp 6,000 dollars and then paid Robert Gray & Son an additional 15s for actually stamping the coins. This rate of pay might well explain the total lack of artistic merit in any of the stamps. It is a sign of the bank's efficiency that, when the coins were recalled several years later, they got virtually all of them back. Mr Allen's researches show that about 1 per cent of the issue - some 60 coins in all - has survived.

The value of these coins as a social record is incalculable. Their cash value to collectors is generally from £200 to £400, although some are worth much more. Every now and then something helps to lift the value, and the sale includes a coin that demonstrates this very well.

The stamp W. G. & Co has not as yet been positively identified, but probably refers to William Gowans, a grocer from East Quay Street in Greenock. The stamp has been found on only three coins. But William Gowans (if indeed it is him), will have done Walter Allen a good turn, for he placed his 4s 9d stamp, not on a Spanish dollar, but on a silver dollar from the recently independent United States of America. The coin is dated 1795, only the second year issue, and is now extremely rare.

## Daniel Fearon

The Spink Coin Auction No 34 is on Wednesday at 10.30am in the Cavendish Hotel, Jermyn Street, London SW1. Catalogues from Spink & Son, 27 King Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6GS, price 25.

## Out and About/Angling

## Downcast by an early start to the season

There are some moments an angler will never forget. It is the instant when, just at that second... Time may blur the edge of the mind's eye or fox the detail like the page of an old familiar book, but the essential memory lingers.

Most of these recollections for the angler are of great moments in high summer. Perhaps an early morning wade and sea trout were thudding down into a slow-running Scottish river, or a perfectly still evening when the sun started to turn the water pink and trout gorged on a succession of fly hatches.

But early March is likely to evoke for me images of the opening day on a large London reservoir which the water authority decided one year to open a little earlier than usual.

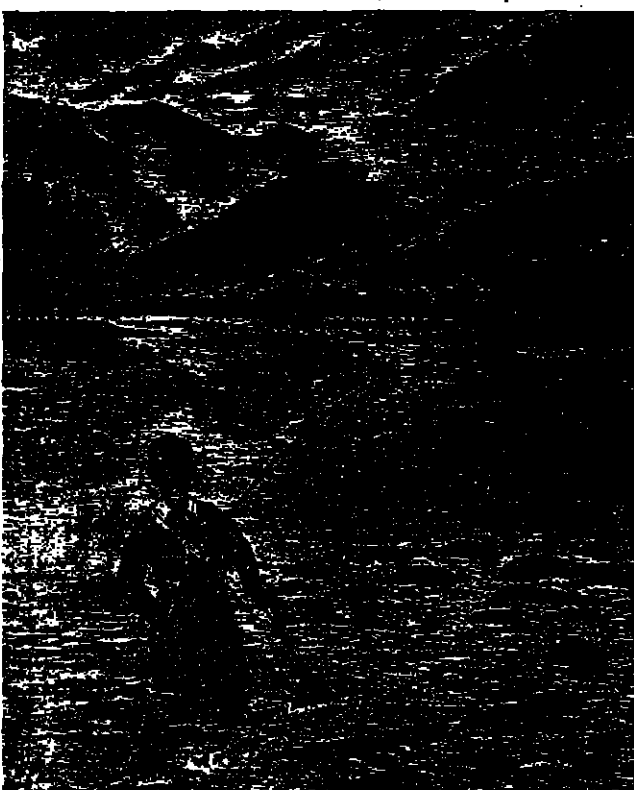
On that day the sun was hidden by thick grey cloud. Electrical pylons marched away into the mists of the Lea Valley, and I would not have been surprised to find the water frozen. Many had arrived before me - opening day on any large reservoir is always heavily booked, not least because extra stocks of fish are poured into the water to guarantee a return.

Anglers, some in outfits normally identified with helicopter rescue crews, lined a concrete bowl of the reservoir close to the gate. Now, it is a well-established rule, at least in the fishing books, that one avoids the milling crowd and the stretch near where you parked the car. The experts always exhort the reader to walk and explore.

As the pylons grew even dimmer in the advancing afternoon gloom, I found myself on a huge deserted stretch. I fished for hours with the cold cutting into my bones on a wind slight from the Urals via Edmonton. My only company was a pair of desultory cormorants roosting the grey water without great enthusiasm or achievement.

With the approach of dusk I made my way back towards the gate and the diminishing lines of anglers. They were marching away in their twos and threes with bulging bags. By the time the whistle blew for the end of the day I was formerly fishing the vacated banks in the hope of finding a trout or two which had escaped the earlier slaughter. No such luck.

Since that day I have never celebrated the start of the season by attending the opening



"Quite at home with trout"

day ritual, no matter the promises of bluffs and authorities that millions of innocent, shiny trout are to be cascaded into the water under my line. The banks will either be too crowded or too cold and lonely. I bide my time and never cast a line until March is nearly over.

To be fair, few public or private waters open quite as early as the scene of my bleak memory. The great majority will be opening in the next month or so and all will be fishing by the middle of April at the latest.

They provide a wealth of opportunities for fly fishing, usually at very reasonable prices and often with far greater access than river fishing. The opening of the great reservoirs for recreational use in the early 1970s is often taken as the reason for a rapid rise in game fishing in Britain over the past decade.

Most lakes and reservoirs are populated with rainbow trout. These fish are specially bred on farms since rainbows will not normally spawn in enclosed waters in this country. A number of waters also stock brown trout or exotic hybrids usually developed in the United States.

If the national average bag of a fly fisherman is 1.5 fish per outing, as one writer calculated some years ago, then the fisherman undoubtedly spent most of his time on reservoirs. Private fishing is much more productive - the waters are considerably smaller and the stocking is much greater because the owners are keen to maintain business.

The number of private waters has increased rapidly in recent years, often developed as an offshoot of fish farming. The lakes may be only a few acres of a complex of waters offering different types of fishing from dry fly to "any method".

Prices for day fishing can be anything from £8 to £12 and the limit will usually be three or four fish. A number of lakes offer no limit but charge £1 per one pound of fish caught. Others may allow fish caught to be held in a keep net and then let the angler choose what he wants to take with him.

Some of the private waters have become famous for the quality of their fishing. Avington in Hampshire is known for the huge rainbow trout that have been bred over the years, and others which have drawn prize in the past include Church Hill Farm in Buckinghamshire, Bayham Lake in Kent, and Lapsley, also in Hampshire, to name but a very few.

The beginner would be well advised to avoid promising private waters and spend his first few outings fishing the rise on a public water where there is plenty of room for mistakes. He can find a quiet corner, cast without being embarrassed by his failures and possibly get a catch. It is worth spending more money on the private waters once he is proficient.

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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Beecham building a do-it-yourself division

Beecham Group has declared open season on makers of do-it-yourself goods. Yesterday the company said that it was paying £57.8m cash for Roberts Consolidated Industries, a leading United States supplier of branded contact adhesives, carpet-laying adhesives and wood preservatives. This comes after a £46m deal to buy DAP, a United States adhesives and household sealants business, in January last year, and more recently the takeover of Rubson, a French home maintenance firm, for £5m. In other words, it is clear - and freely admitted - that Beecham is creating a fourth division to stand alongside pharmaceuticals, animal health products and consumer products, such as Bovril, Horlicks and Silvikin.

The company explained: "We see this as an area of growth potential internationally. It is a logical extension of our interest in adhesives through UHU glue". The Roberts and Rubson deals already give Beecham - D-I-Y manufacturing coverage in Germany, Benelux, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. There is one obvious omission from that list: Britain. D-I-Y has seen a high rate of growth in this country, proving itself a means of fighting recession as well as a popular hobby. Last year's bitterly contested battle for control of UBM Group showed how rich the pickings are reckoned to be. Hitherto no company of Beecham's clout has entered what is still a fragmented industry rooted in local family businesses.

While Beecham agrees that the D-I-Y division is still some way from completion, a formidable division has already been amassed. Roberts and DAP together muster annual sales of over £100m and profits of about £15m. The latest deal also takes Beecham's total US turnover up to £400m a year, and is yet another example of how the leading British companies appear to have come separately to a collective decision that their scope for expansion lies in the US rather than Europe. Earlier this week, in the quite unrelated trade of confectionery, Cadbury Schweppes revealed a renewed commitment across the Atlantic.

## Not the right time to cash in

Shareholders in BRS International, the kitchenware and electronics group, have good cause to be grateful to Mr Neal Stewart and Mr Brian Christopher. Since this pair sold their Hongkong electronics business, Astec, to BSR in 1982 the share price has risen from 65p to 260p. Conversely, news that Mr Stewart has sold 1.2 million shares for £3.1m must cause a shiver of apprehension to run through the rank-and-file.

An announcement yesterday tries to calm them. The shares had been placed with institutions so that Mr Stewart could meet substantial personal loans and obligations. The company's committee for share dealings had approved the transaction, and Mr Stewart intended not to sell any more shares "in the foreseeable future". It should be said that Mr Stewart took up his full entitlement to last year's on-for-three rights issue, involving him in buying 880,000 BSR shares at 55p apiece.

While Mr Stewart's loyalty to the company is not in doubt, the episode highlights the extreme difficulty confronting entrepreneurs who want to turn paper fortunes into hard usable cash. Mr Stewart and his partner extracted a good deal from

BSR when they sold Astec. BSR was arguably on its last legs and in desperate need of an injection of this kind. The terms were 5.2 million BSR shares, salaries and allowances of \$HK\$540,000 (£47,400) a year each, and commission of up to 2 per cent on Astec profits. And the pair naturally has access to a London stock market quote.

While it would be churlish to say that they should never take advantage of that facility the fact is that Mr Stewart and Mr Christopher are still closely identified with BSR's continued revival. A better time for them to begin cashing in on their success would have been when BSR is perceived to be capable of flourishing without their deep personal involvement. That time is not yet.

## Finding new oil for industry's wheels

By the time Mrs Thatcher goes to the polls in 1988 or thereabouts her North Sea oil inheritance will be largely spent. Oil production is expected to peak within the next three years and fall steadily from then on. The decline in government revenues may be sharper. The prospect of an oil-scarce Britain by the end of the decade has begun - not before time - to occupy the minds of our putative rulers. Within the last week, Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr Tony Benn and now Dr David Owen have created an impressive cross-party consensus of the "unwisdom" of present policies.

The Government harnessed the proceeds of oil in its first term to its counter-inflation objectives, by reducing public borrowing and pushing up the exchange rate. The impact on the economy has been profound. The manufacturing sector has shrunk dramatically with the elimination of nearly two million jobs and the loss of Britain's traditional surplus on manufactured trade.

A drop in oil revenues from a peak of £11 billion to £12 billion to perhaps £7 billion by 1990 would make a further reduction in state borrowing a good deal harder. The effect of declining production on the balance of payments could be critical. A recent paper by economists at the National Economic Development Office predicted gloomily that oil's contribution to the balance of payments, now running at over £13 billion, could fall to zero by the end of the decade. That gap would be too big to bridge with proceeds from overseas investment (on which the Government has placed most emphasis) or by higher earnings from services. Only a return to a surplus on trade in manufactures could keep Britain's overseas payments in balance. The NEDO paper argues. This view was strongly backed yesterday by Dr Owen.

There are dangers, however, in assuming that as the oil runs out, structural changes it brought in its wake would naturally reverse themselves, for instance, through a lower exchange rate. Creating capacity in the new, expanding, high value-added sectors of manufacturing will require much more than a competitive value for sterling. The NEDO economists argue strongly for greater investment in the equally important areas of product innovation, design, improved management techniques and marketing. Dr Owen's four-point plan, designed to channel resources into precisely this area, deserves careful thought.

# Lloyds best of banks with 27 per cent profits rise

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank turned in the strongest performance of the big four to round off the reporting season for the clearing banks yesterday. Pretax profits rose by 27 per cent to £419m, at the top end of City forecasts, and the dividend has also been raised by more than expected.

Lloyds is paying a final dividend of 17.54p net to give a 16 per cent increase to 28.5p for the year. Bank shares rose several pence yesterday in an otherwise dull market and Lloyds closed 17p higher at 614p.

An unchanged bad debt provision of £219m is the main reason why Lloyds has fared better than its competitors. Its greater exposure to international debt problems, particularly in Latin America, than some of its competitors has been a source of worry on the stock market. Its profits were well down in 1982 after it bumped up provisions sharply, especially on the international side. But unlike the other banks, Lloyds has seen no need to

## THE BANKS' 1983 RESULTS (£m)

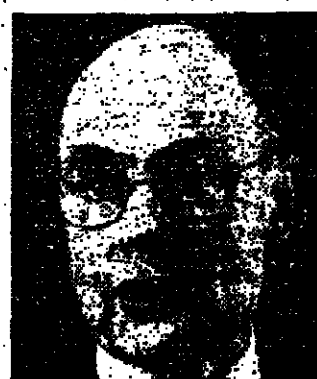
	Bad debt provisions	Pretax profits
Barclays	478(328)	557(495)
Lloyds	219(219)	419(329)
Midland	318(196)	225(251)
NatWest	284(223)	503(439)

1982 figures in brackets increase further the charge against profits in 1983.

Its specific provision, which covers clearly identified problems, has even fallen from £186m to £143m, including a £44m drop to £56m on the international side. However, this has been offset by a rise in the discretionary general provision from £33m to £76m.

Lloyds was making no promises that provisions would fall this year. Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman, said: "The world economy is looking a little better, but it is by no means out of the wood yet."

However, there was a glimmer of optimism over Argentina, which has paid no interest on its debts since last October, and still presents one of the worst headaches for inter-



Sir Jeremy Morse: world economy 'a little better'

national bankers. Mr Eric Whittle, chief executive of Lloyds Bank International, said there were some signs Argentina might start making interest payments after its meeting with bankers in New York on Wednesday.

Alongside the big four, Lloyds has pushed up retained profits and earnings - earnings per share increased from 127p to 143p - although in common with the other banks its tax charge is higher, up from £80m to £135m.

On the international side, Lloyds increased pretax profits from £135m to £189m after a slightly lower level overall of bad debt provisions. A strong performance from the wholesale banking operation in the United States and £10m of currency gains contributed to the rise.

On the domestic side, Lloyds appears to have been growing faster than the other clearing banks, taking an aggressive stance in the personal loan market. Average sterling advances reached by 27 per cent, but funding the sterling loan portfolio has become more expensive. Deposit accounts declined last year, forcing the bank to rely increasingly on more expensive savings and deposit schemes with the result that net interest margins contracted from 6.4 per cent to 5.5 per cent.

However, domestic profits still showed a healthy gain from £194m to £230m, despite higher bad debt provisions, helped by a one third rise in other operating income which includes lending commissions and bank charges.

## Toaster investors' fingers burnt

By Philip Robinson

Breville Europe, the electric appliance and toaster group, floated on the Unlisted Securities Market 17 months ago, yesterday reported its third consecutive profits fall and passed the half-time dividend.

In the six months to the end of last December profits fell from £1.5m to £1.0m as sales plunged from £10m to £2.5m. The group paid an interim 1.75 dividend last year. It is saying nothing this year and says it will not decide on whether to pay a final dividend until the full-year figures emerge next month.

Mr Colin Cookman, managing director says that since December, the second half of the year has not been significantly better than the first. From January to June a year ago, the group lost £420,000, reducing the yearly profit to June 1983 from £3.53m to £1.2m.

Breville's shares, floated at 90p each by Hill Samuel, the merchant bankers and Fielding Newson-Smith, the stock brokers, rose to 117p in early dealings and have fallen ever since. Yesterday they lost a further 2p to a record low of 24p.

Mr Cookman says the reason sales and profits have collapsed is because of the "maturing" of the United Kingdom toaster market. Its electric toaster represented 75 per cent of sales. A year ago, the market had "matured" to about two million units a year.

He said yesterday that it was now more likely to be between one million and 1.1 million units. Last year, suppliers who had heavily over-stocked at the end of 1982 took the opportunity to reduce stocks.

Mr Cookman now expects sales of toasters to be less volatile. Of its other products, the coffee machine and the Air Care machine, once described as key to the company's fortunes, have not performed spectacularly in a low margin and highly competitive area.

Accompanying the first-half figures was the announcement of the appointment of a new commercial director, Mr Michael Fraser, currently managing director of Singer. Mr Cookman said: "The key to our success is very strong marketing of products which we identify as having some unique quality. Mr Fraser's appointment will give me more time to do this."

There are currently two "unique" products under discussion, neither of which Mr Cookman would identify. Mr Cookman said: "None of our companies is making a loss and we will not make a loss at the full year, but profits might be slim."

## QC fears greater power for taxman

By Ian Griffiths

A leading tax lawyer has claimed that the Inland Revenue may be granted powers to make its own rulings on contentious tax avoidance schemes. Such powers, it is believed, would allow the Inland Revenue to outlaw many schemes at a stroke.

This quasi-legal rulings system could be introduced in Tuesday's Budget as a response to the uncertainty over which avoidance schemes will be allowed in the wake of the House of Lords ruling in the case of Furniss v Dawson, in which the lawyer, Mr Stephen Oliver, QC, appeared for the taxpayer.

The case centred on a scheme to defer capital gains tax by exchanging shares in two family companies for shares in an investment company. The Lords ruled against the scheme on the grounds that it included a step which had no business purpose other than tax deferral.

Mr Oliver said at an Institute for Fiscal Studies seminar discussing the decision: "I fear that we are in for a series of

rulings and that a future finance Bill will allow the Inland Revenue to make these rulings".

Mr Oliver also said that the rulings system would create an enormous amount of semi-legal decisions which would place unreasonable burdens on accountants and lawyers. Such a system, he said, would be against the public interest.

The accountancy profession, in the guise of a deputation from the consultative committee of accountancy bodies, has already put pressure on the Inland Revenue to issue a statement about areas which will be unaffected by Furniss v Dawson together with details of instructions which will be given to tax inspectors on how to implement the decision.

The request was turned down. The Inland Revenue said such a statement could not be made for the time being and this delay has fuelled speculation that the Chancellor will take action in his Budget statement.

## Opec holds price at \$29

From James Crawford, Vienna

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is to extend its current \$29 a barrel price and production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels per day. But the meeting of its ministerial monitoring committee yesterday forecast demand weakness in the second quarter.

According to Dr Mansour al-Otaibi, the committee chairman and Oil Minister of the United Arab Emirates, demand for Opec oil will drop from between 18 million and 18.2 million barrels to between 16.1 million and 16.5 million barrels per day. Recovery is expected over the summer and an 18 million to 18.5 million barrels per day output is forecast for the last quarter.

So far demand has been held high by fears of an escalation in the Gulf war, unusually cold weather in the US and reviving Western economies.

## Budget lift for shares

The equity market came within a whisker of its record yesterday, reflecting growing confidence on the outcome of next week's Budget.

The FT Index rose by 3.2 to 840.9 - 0.7 short of its record - with the FT-SE 100 closing 4.3 higher at 1060.1. Dealers reported selective support for most of the leaders, but turnover was generally described as low. Gilt saw the Index-Linked stocks rally by up to 2%, while among the conventional issues, prices rose by up to 2%.

Market report, page 22  
Share prices, page 30

## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1060.1 up 4.3 (day's high: 1180.4, low: 1058.3)  
FT Index: 840.9 up 3.2  
FT Gilt: 88.14 down 0.04  
FT All Share: 501.35 up 1.29  
Bargains: 24,010  
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 108.41 up 0.07  
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest): 1136.61 down 5.4  
Tel Aviv: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,997.22 up 37.90  
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 1094.40 up 16.25  
Amsterdam: 169.7 up 2.1  
Sydney: AS Index: 713.3 up 0.7

## CURRENCIES

### LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4605 up 1/4 cent  
Index 80.8 down 0.3  
DM 3.77 down 0.0050  
FF 1.6725 down 0.0075  
Yen 327.50 unchanged  
Dollar Index 125.6 up 0.2  
DM 2.5790 down 0.0095  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling \$1.4658  
Dollar DM 2.5790  
ECU 10.582605  
SDR 10.727657

## INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rates 8%  
Finance houses base rate 9%  
Discount market loans week 8%  
3 month interbank 8%  
Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 10%  
3 month DM 5%  
3 month Fr 15%  
US rates:  
Bank prime rate 11.00  
Fed funds 9%  
Treasury long bond 9%  
90%  
90%

## GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
Au 402.00 pm \$399.50  
close \$401.50-402 (\$275-275.50)  
New York (latest): \$401.75  
Kruggerand (per cent):  
\$414-415.50 (\$283.50-284.50)  
Sovereigns (new):  
\$94-95 (\$24-25.65)  
Excludes VAT

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Avana bid for Bassett to stand

Avana Group confirmed yesterday that it would not increase its two-for-seven share swap terms for Bassett Foods, the liquorice confectionery group, beginning a war of nerves that could last until April 17 under the City takeover rules. Bassett shares fell 3p to 150p. Avana's bid gives them a value of 148p.

Avana hopes shareholders will accept the bid, worth £17.7m in total, now that they know there is nothing better in the offing, but Bassett is still confident of defeating the takeover.

Cyprus Airways confirmed yesterday that it was the airline which Airbus Industry said had ordered four of its A320 aircraft. There are now 51 firm orders from five airlines, and 45 options to buy the plane.

Brazil's February trade surplus of \$856m (\$576m) was a record, and means the country is on target for its desired \$9 billion surplus in 1984. Exports were up by 35 per cent.

Japanese finance officials will visit London next week to discuss opening their country's services sector to more foreign competition.

## Goldstein family member leaves Superdrug board

By William Kay, City Editor

A member of the ruling Goldstein family has resigned from the board of Superdrug, just over a year after the toiletries retailer went public in one of the most successful flotations.

A statement yesterday said that Mr Michael Goldstein, a 34-year-old cousin of Superdrug's joint chairmen, Mr Peter Goldstein and Mr Ronald Goldstein, had with effect from Thursday resigned from the board "for personal reasons". The statement added that he had ceased his executive re-

sponsibilities earlier in the year. He was described in the flotation prospectus as the buying director.

Mr Peter Goldstein said yesterday: "We jointly felt it would be better if he left. Whether he was here or not has not made any difference to the business for some period. We acquired him when we took over his family business, Elgee Drugstores, in 1972. As far as I know he is not pursuing another career."

Mr Michael Goldstein owns 1,921,500 Superdrug shares.

## Upturn raises fears of tighter money

# US growth worries markets

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Reagan Administration yesterday released good economic news which was nonetheless regarded as bad news by nervous financial markets uncertain over the direction of US fiscal and monetary policies.

An official estimate of stronger than expected growth in the first quarter of more than 6 per cent was regarded as a mixed blessing by markets which have become increasingly fearful of a new tightening of monetary policy by the Federal Reserve Board, the US central bank.

The announcement of a \$1.5 billion drop in the US money supply, M-1, for the week ended February 27 was also worrying to nervous traders who had anticipated a much larger decline. As a result, interest rates, which have been rising since the first of the year, increased again following the release of the new M-1 figures. Since the first of the year, some long term rates have risen more

than half of a percentage point, climbing to levels not approached since mid-1982. Short term rates have also risen but have gone up slightly less.

The only good news released yesterday which was actually treated as such was the US unemployment rate in February, which dropped to its lowest level since 1981 at 7.8 per cent, down from 8 per cent in January.

What is fuelling the fears of financial markets is the combination of the declining dollar and stronger than expected economic growth - a combination almost certain to continue boosting interest rates unless there is decisive action this year to reduce the spiralling US federal budget deficits.

Mr Martin Feldstein, the President's Chief Economic Adviser, added to the fears this week by making the first official prediction that first quarter growth would exceed expectations, rising to more than 6

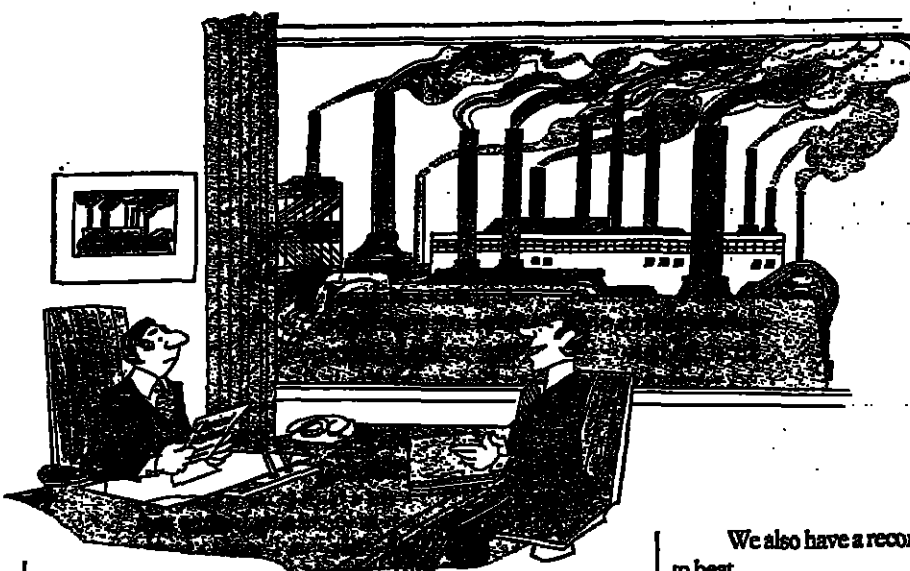
per cent instead of the 4 per cent which had been anticipated.

Earlier this week, Mr Paul Volcker, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, testified before Congress that the economy cannot be allowed to grow at a 6 to 7 per cent rate for very long.

Continuing to underpin the fears of markets are the deadlocked negotiations between Congress and the Reagan Administration about ways to reduce the huge budget deficits expected to total \$500 billion over the three-year period beginning October.

President Reagan joined the stalled talks for the first time and was pressed by Senate Republicans for a commitment to cut defence spending. "A group of Republican Senators told the President that a deficit reduction package with defence cuts was important to them in an election year," one official said.

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Our premiums were already very good. Now they're even better.

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- 1 To provide high life cover at low cost for a fixed period. (An option to convert to another type of policy without a medical can be added.)
- 2 To make sure your family has a regular income should you die.
- 3 To protect your mortgage.
- 4 To provide yourself with low-cost life insurance if you are self-employed.
- 5 To protect against losses resulting from the death of a key person in a company or partnership.

As you see, a whole range of important policies - and now even cheaper!

Take our Family Income Cover policy, for example: an excellent way to protect your family for a very modest outlay.

For a monthly premium of only £7.06\*, a healthy 'non-smoking' man aged 30 can arrange for his family to be paid a tax-free income of £10,000 per annum right up to the year 2004, should he die at any time before that date.

Assuming his wife is also 30, in good health, and a 'non-smoker', he could insure her life on the same terms for only £5.32\* a month.

Why Clerical Medical? Clerical Medical was founded in 1824 and we're one of Britain's longest-established, largest and most respected life offices.

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And, as a mutual office, all our distributable profits go to with-profits policyholders in the form of bonuses.

Your insurance adviser can tell you more about our highly competitive 'non-smoker' rates.

If you prefer, post the coupon below FREEPOST (no stamp required in the UK), phone 01-930 5474, or enquire via Pressnet page 377930.

\* After allowing for life assurance premium relief at the rate current on 7th March 1984.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
I AM ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN:-  
Life assurance cover ☐ Family Income Cover ☐ Mortgage protection ☐  
Self-employed life cover ☐ Key person life cover ☐  
I AM ALSO INTERESTED IN:-  
Permanent Health Insurance ☐ Pensions ☐ Regular Savings ☐  
Lump Sum Investment ☐  
My insurance adviser is \_\_\_\_\_

**Clerical Medical**  
Life Assurance

— TRADITIONALLY, GREAT PERFORMERS —





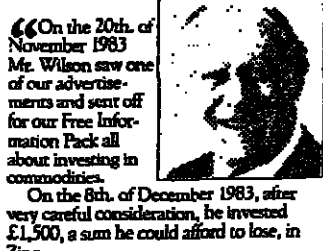






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## Unit trust performance

These tables show the value on March 1 of £100 of units invested 12 months ago and three years ago - net income reinvested and based on an offer-to-offer basis. Figures supplied by Planned Savings Statistics.

Financial	12mths	36mths	Growth	12mths	36mths
Henderson Fin	148.9	160.7	Target S Sit	169.5	209.1
Hill Sam Fin	131.5	160.7	Quadrant Recov	160.0	190.5
Nat West Fin	131.2	189.1	M&G Recov	152.4	169.9
Britannia Prop	131.1	136.9	Brown Shiply Rec	152.0	145.6
Barclay Fin	129.9	145.2	Britannia Recov	149.4	186.1
Practical Fin	129.8	192.7	Tyndall Spec Sit	149.0	218.4
Target Inv Trust	129.0	198.0	Alid Recov	147.8	199.5
Brown Ship Fin	127.5	147.2	Canon Growth	147.0	-
M&G Fnd of Tst	127.0	170.5	Schroder S Sit	145.2	-
J Finlay Trst	125.1	175.9	NPI Growth	144.9	228.4
Target Financial	124.2	167.4	Wardley Tech	144.8	192.3
Fram Convr&Gilt	123.9	167.2	Hend Recov	143.4	156.9
S & P Trst Units	122.5	186.8	Mercury Recov	142.9	-
Britannia Inv Tst	121.1	160.0	Fidelity S Sit	140.0	216.6
S & P Fin Secs	120.9	175.4	Craigmount Recov	139.8	176.3
S & P Soutbts	120.6	163.4	Proflite S Sit	139.2	-
Klwin Fd Inv Tst	120.5	179.9	Barclay Recov	137.9	209.1
Tyndall Financial	119.7	138.4	Canon Growth	137.4	-
Britannia Fin Sec	119.5	173.1	Schroder UK Epy	135.7	229.3
Henderson Fin Int	119.4	146.0	TSB Selected Opt	135.5	-
Holborn Gilt	119.0	163.4	Hill S Spec Sit	135.5	212.5
Nelstar Gilt	116.6	-	Brown Shiply Grth	134.5	181.1
Legal & Gen Gilt	116.5	-	MGM UK Grth	134.3	-
Tyndall Pref	115.6	160.0	Vanguard S Sit	133.7	204.9
Fidelity Gilt	114.3	152.8	M&G Conversion	133.2	181.0
Allied Gilt Grth	114.1	-	Mid Bk Small Cos	133.0	184.9
Tyndall Gilt Cap	113.7	-	M&G Com Grth	132.7	171.1
Target Gilt Cap	113.7	145.3	Crescent Capit	132.3	-
Canille Gilt	113.7	161.9	Gartmore S Sit	132.3	155.4
Hill Samuel Gilt	113.5	-	Fram Capit	131.0	196.0
Gartmore Fin Int	113.1	-	Brown Capit	129.9	-
Proflite Gilt Cap	113.1	-	Stewart Brit Cap	129.3	182.4
Abbey Gilt & Fix	112.7	142.4	Frd Prov Equity	127.9	230.2
Arbuthnot Fin	112.6	139.2	Br Shiply Tech	126.9	-
Rowan Fin Int	112.0	-	Mid Bk Capit	126.8	174.7
Britannia Gilt	111.6	152.9	Allied Accum	126.8	182.2
Equity & Law Gilt	111.5	-	GI Capital	126.7	196.2
Midland Bk Gilt	111.4	147.3	Hend Special Sit	126.5	143.3
Rowan High Int	111.3	-	Northwest Growth	126.4	184.6
Gr Gilt & Fixed	111.3	139.6	Gartmore Smr Cos	126.3	-
Arbuthnot Gilt	111.3	139.6	Royal Tst Capital	126.1	165.4
M&G Gilt & Fix	111.2	149.0	Bishopgate Progr	124.9	188.9
Bater Pref & Gilt	111.0	147.4	S&P Special Sit	124.6	-
S&P Gilt & Fix	110.8	145.3	Hill Sam Capital	124.6	176.4
Target Gilt Int	110.4	145.1	Barclay Capital	123.9	173.9
Gartmore Gilt	110.4	142.1	Britannia Accum	123.4	-
Raigmont Gilt	110.0	148.0	TSB General	123.1	173.5
Barrington Gilt	109.9	144.2	Tyndall Capital	122.6	140.4
Chiefain Pref	109.7	122.9	Bridge Capital	122.6	166.1
Allied Gov Sec	109.7	153.1	Equity & Law Grth	122.5	-
Tyndall Gilt Int	109.6	142.1	Gartmore Ins Agen	122.3	180.4
Barclay Gilt Int	109.3	142.1	Arkwright	122.0	-
Arbuthnot Pref	109.3	145.4	Perpetual Growth	121.8	210.9
TSB Gilt & Fixed	109.2	-	Proflite Tech	121.5	-
Henderson Gilt	109.0	131.8	Tyndall Small Con	121.0	158.0
Mercury Gilt	108.6	173.7	Abbey UK Growth	121.0	165.6
S&P Gilt & Fix	107.8	158.4	Oppen Special Sit	120.6	173.4
Britannia Pref	107.6	124.6	Target Professional	120.3	167.1
S&P Int Bond	105.9	161.2	Barclay Growth	119.6	160.1
Abbey Wld Bond	105.6	167.2	GI & Tar Small Co	118.0	-
Key Fix Int	104.2	140.6			

## FAMILY MONEY

12mths		36mths		12mths		36mths		12mths		36mths		12mths		36mths		
Royal Life Equity	117.0	-	-	Alle Ht Incm	136.2	197.1	Kirt UK Eqty Gth	119.1	170.7	M&G Par E&L	116.6	156.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Allied O'seas Easrn	117.0	190.8	-	Craig Ht Incm	136.0	153.8	New Court Sm Cos	118.7	170.2	Arbuthnot Amn	115.2	156.2	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Archway Growth	116.7	-	-	TSB Incm	135.8	216.9	Widley Mar Leaders	117.1	133.9	S&P New Tech	115.9	159.7	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Brind Cap Growth	116.5	184.8	-	Klwin Bn Ht Yie	135.4	182.0	Murray Smr Cos	116.9	172.8	Tyndall Int	115.5	189.7	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Hendriann Capital	116.5	155.0	-	Cres Ht Incm	135.3	190.9	Allied Sec Sm Cos	116.8	186.7	Chiefain Aust	115.5	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Midwest Cap Growth	115.8	184.8	-	Art Ht Incm	135.1	187.0	Alkin Hume Inc	116.5	137.3	Mercury Int	115.4	159.1	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
S&P Smaller Cos	115.7	201.3	-	Chief Inc & Grth	135.0	155.0	Fielding Fund	116.5	-	Target US Sp Bnd	115.1	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Abbey Assets	115.5	-	-	Perp Incm	134.4	235.1	Nat West Smr Cos	114.7	220	TR Ocas Grth	115.0	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Lawrie Growth	114.9	121.0	-	Hend Sm Co Div	134.4	190.1	College Hill	113.9	181.2	Govett Euro Gr	115.0	157.5	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Stratford Capital	114.6	168.8	-	S&P Incm	133.8	176.7	Hill Sam Smr Cos	113.9	-	Marin Curie	114.4	184.5	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Harcourt Growth	113.0	-	-	Alle Ht Yie	133.8	185.0	TR Gen Growth	113.1	-	Henderson Int	114.3	191.2	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Fiars Growth	113.0	-	-	Brit Nat Ht Incm	133.6	186.4	Robert Fraser	112.3	94.3	Fidelity Man Int	114.1	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Midwest Cap Growth	111.0	170.3	-	Quand Incm	133.5	171.3	Arbuthnot Smr Cos	112.2	226.9	Chiefain Glt Rec	114.1	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
High Tech Technology	110.9	189.4	-	Oppen Inc & Grth	133.4	177.4	Discretionary	111.5	167.7	Quadrant Int	111.9	187.2	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Tr Special Op	110.6	-	-	M&G Convr Inc	133.3	205.0	Allied Capital	111.2	178.1	Lids Bk W Wde Gr	111.4	167.9	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Wardley Cap Private	110.1	135.1	-	Arbuth Ht Incm	132.8	158.7	Friars House	108.8	148.5	Stockholders	111.3	162.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Worthing Capital Grth	108.8	130.3	-	Fram Incm	132.5	197.5	Bucknstr Smr Cos	107.4	-	Craigmount Nam	111.3	136.9	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Brit Mkt Sits	107.9	149.1	-	Nat West Incm	131.2	215.7	Klwin Ben Sm Cos	105.9	199.9	TSB Int	111.1	172.1	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Income				Lids Bk Incm	131.2	196.6	Aitkin Hume Sp Sits	104.9	169.9	Frantom Int Gr	110.9	212.4	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Canon Income	154.9	-	-	Brit Incm & Grth	130.5	183.4	Aitkin Hume Sm Cos	101.9	168.4	Duncan Lwrie O	110.9	203.7	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
G & M Gid & Gen	154.0	217.1	-	Mean Delph Inc	130.1	181.4	Chiefain Cos	101.0		Arbuthnot Fpn Gr	110.3	203.1	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Asset Income	153.7	226.7	-	Barc Incm	130.1	208.0	Luz Capital	91.6	166.1	Wielor Grth	110.3	232.7	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
C & C Income	151.0	207.9	-	Jame Fin Ht Incm	130.0	162.0				Lloyds Bk Int Tec	110.2	190.3	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
TSB ESB Extra Income	149.2	-	-	Wick Divd	129.6	185.9				S&P S& Asia Gr	119.9	96.0	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
C & L High Inc	148.7	-	-	Hend Ht Incm	129.4	186.2				M&G Am Recov	107.7	236.7	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
W & A Divd Inc	147.8	208.3	-	Chief Ht Incm	127.8	146.1				Quand Int	107.6	106.7	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
TSB S&P	147.5	204.5	-	Peak Cumbrd Inc	127.7	163.3				Buckman Int Cap	107.4	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Key Income	146.8	216.2	-	Crescent Grth	126.7	138.0				Britannia Int Cap	107.3	123.0	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Krowan High Yield	145.0	222.2	-	TR Incm Mthly	126.7	173.8				Hendson Glt Tech	107.3	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Crown High Inc	144.5	-	-	Brit Extra Incm	124.1	162.2				Hendan Am Rec	106.6	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Alkin Hume Inc	141.2	188.0	-	Middle Mat Incm	124.0	150.2				Buckmer Maribo	106.1	161.2	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
TSB S&P	143.6	194.5	-	Arbuth Ht Yie	124.0	147.9				Allied Seco Am	105.7	184.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Chroder Income	143.5	220.1	-	Grth Incm	123.8	146.6				M&G Am & Gen	105.4	205.5	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.8	204.1	-	Wardley Extra Inc	123.6	140.9				Gartmore Amer	104.9	163.9	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.8	204.1	-	Lawson High Yld	123.2	-				Brit Am Spec Sits	103.6	165.1	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Fidelity Growth	142.6	215.3	-	Duncan Lawrie Inc	122.9	151.2				Mid Bk Nuk Amer	103.5	168.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-	Wardley Incm	120.5	140.3				Murray Amer	103.4	168.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Brit Amer Grth	103.2	172.9	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Barclay Amr	103.2	172.9	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Brit Wld Tech	103.1	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Brit Far East	102.9	100.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Mercury Am Gth	102.1	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Nat West N Amer	101.8	147.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Abbey Amer Gth	101.4	164.3	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Fielding Int	100.7	146.9	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							J Capl Amr	100.7	183.2	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Chroder Amer	100.6	183.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Hill Sam	100.6	106.6	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Br Ship N Amer	100.6	156.6	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							TSB Amer	100.5	156.6	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Fram Amer T/r	100.1	230.7	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Profit N Amer	100	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Wardley Amer	99.7	157.9	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Tyndall N Amer	99.6	171.5	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Fidelity Amer	99.6	200.9	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Barc Unit S&P	99.2	156.0	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Stewart Amer	98.6	145.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Jame Fin Int	97.7	157.0	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							S&P US Gth	97.3	183.2	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Ety & Law NA	97.1	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Allied Am Sp Sits	97.1	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Brit Amer Sm Cos	96.8	180.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Chiefain Amer	96.5	142.6	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Rowan Ameria	95.5	179.1	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Crescent Amer	94.5	149.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Lds Bnk N Amer	94.2	149.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							James Fin Int	93.7	191.6	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Gr US & Gen	93.5	201.9	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Schroder Amer	93.3	182.2	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Brit Honk Pfr	93.2	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Target Am Eagle	89.9	165.6	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Heed N Amer	89.6	176.5	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Fidelity Am Sp S	89.3	168.3	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Hend Am Sm Cos	86.9	188.4	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Arbuthnot N Am	85.7	181.5	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Ait Hume Am Gth	85.3	181.5	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Bridge Am & Gen	83.8	140.6	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Glt Tech & Grth	79.6	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Specialist																
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Target Energy	13.7	101.1	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Brit Unit Energy	153.2	88.9	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Tyndall Nat Res	153.0	134.2	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Ait Hime Eng & Res	148.6	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							G'more Gld & Gey	138.7	137.8	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							M&G Cnd & Gen	143.5	143.5	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							G'more Cmmnd	139.4	148.0	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Target Commnd	138.4	176.9	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							S & P Eny Indus	134.5	100.1	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							J Fm Wld Eny	126.0	92.6	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							New Cr Eny	89.9	89.9	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc	142.6	215.3	-							Abc Cmmnd & Eny	125.7	-	12mths	36mths	12mths	36mths
Par Extra Inc																



FAMILY MONEY

Rise at Girobank

The fee for payments by National Girobank's Transcash service is to be raised from 30p to 35p on April 2. This is the first increase since April, 1981. The Transcash service enables people to make payments at 20,000 post offices to any organization which has a Girobank account. This includes public utilities, mail order companies, and local authorities. Girobank current account holders can make payments to any other Girobank account free of charge by using the bank's transfer service.

Tips on tax-saving

If you have completed your year-end tax planning, the April 5 deadline is approaching fast. A helpful booklet from the accountants, Arthur Andersen & Co highlights tax-saving areas, and reviews the main taxation developments during the year. These include new provisions relating to living accommodation provided by employers and draft legislation on furnished holiday lettings, non-resident trusts and deep discount securities. Copies of the booklet are available by post from Arthur Andersen & Co, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2PS.

Ernie's millions

Since Ernie, National Savings' premium bond computer first started picking winners, more than £1,200m has been given in prize money to more than 22,400,000 investors. The 103,019 Premium Bond prizes drawn this month are worth £3,513,800. Bonds eligible for the draw were those sold during the period November, 1982, to November, 1983, inclusive, provided they are still held. November, 1983, bonds are going into the draw for the first time.



Lower rates

Windsor Life which has some of the cheapest term assurance policies, has just been reviewing its rates and making reductions. Term assurance pays out a lump sum if a person dies within a specified period. They get nothing if they survive but it is very necessary for anyone with dependants and is amazingly cheap. Windsor Life, for example, is quoting a premium of £226 a year for £20,000 worth of cover over 20 years for a male aged 45 next birthday. At younger ages, one could buy £100,000 worth of 15-year cover for a male aged 30 next birthday for about £100 a year.

Flexible policy

A new flexible life policy from the Prudential allows investors to vary the level of cover and investment within the same contract. The difficulty with these hybrid plans is in comparing them with conventional policies so it is almost impossible to say whether they are good value. The Pru's scheme, called the Prudential Protection Plan, offers whole of life cover (the sort that pays a lump sum

when you die) with a unit-linked investment facility. Each month, some of the units allocated to the policy holders' plan are sold to meet the cost of providing the level of life cover chosen - plus an administrative charge. Minimum premium payable is £15 (before tax relief) a month.

A 29-year-old man paying a net premium of £20 a month or £240 a year would be able to choose initial life cover of up to £114,839. This is, however, expensive compared with a straight convertible term policy where the same man could buy £100,000 worth of 15-year cover at only £120 a year (before tax relief).

Advice to investors

With the prospect of lower interest rates being announced in the Budget, investors anxious to protect income should take a look at what is on offer for fixed rate investments. Western Trust & Savings is paying as much as 11.68 per cent (taxable) on deposits of £5,000 and over-invested for five years. If you do not want your money tied up for such a long period, the equivalent rate for a one-year investment is 8.74 per cent. National Savings Bank investment Account is paying 11 per cent but this could well be reduced in the Budget, and it is not a fixed rate.

A question of health

Insurers who took on all and sundry in the rush to get home loan related life business when Miras was introduced by the building societies, are now beginning to have second thoughts. They are finding that a lot of bad health risks signed up under the "guaranteed acceptances" concession and several insurers have introduced health questions on their proposal forms to try to reduce the incidence of claims. Latest to pull in its home is Scottish Widows which now requires a medical question when considering proposals under house purchase endorsement assurances. Mirror takes the shine off the "guaranteed acceptance".

Pinnacle offer

A guaranteed return of 8.75 per cent net of basic rate tax for a five year investment is on offer from Pinnacle Insurance Company, which is a United Kingdom authorized insurance company. The bond guarantees both the 8.75 per cent annum and the return of the original capital in full at the end of the five year term. Minimum investment is £1,000. As Pinnacle is a United Kingdom insurance company, investors will be covered by the Policyholders Protection Act.

Terms change

Birmingham and Bridgewater Building Society has enhanced its withdrawal terms on its Extra Interest Shares of basic rate tax in two respects. First, the notice required for withdrawal without loss of interest is reduced to five days from one month. Second, the 30 days loss of interest on immediate withdrawals is reduced to 20 days. Minimum investment in Extra Interest Shares is £500. The improved terms come into immediate effect. The Extra Interest Shares pay 8.25 per cent net of basic rate tax (gross equivalent 11.75 per cent to basic rate taxpayers).

Income switch

Investors can now get a better deal from Middleton Building Society's high interest account, Income Plus. Monthly income instead of quarterly is now available on balances of £10,000 or more. Withdrawal facilities remain the same - up to a month's loss of interest on the amount withdrawn with no penalty if a month's notice is given. Present interest rate is 8.6 per cent (12.29 per cent) which is paid monthly to investors or compounded and added to the balance. The annual equivalent return on an account with interest compounded monthly is 8.95 per cent equal to 12.76 per cent for basic rate taxpayers.

Bloodstock

Stud offers a racing investment

Brook Stud Company is looking for investors under the Business Expansion Scheme who would like to take a stake in the bloodstock industry. "The UK price of bloodstock over the last eight years has increased by more than eight times," says the prospectus for Brook which was founded in 1926.

Brook Stud's business is breeding, selling and boarding thoroughbred racehorses. These are either sold as yearlings or raced with a view to bringing them back to the Stud for breeding. Income is also derived from the selling of nomination rights. The Stud employs 11 people and consists of 200 acres outside Newmarket. The present owner, Mr David Harris acquired the Stud in 1981. From the issue of 384,000 of the 1,700,000 ordinary shares being offered at 65p each will be used to expand the stud by purchasing shares in stallions of international appeal and bloodstock which the company's directors believe will show a long-term capital profit. Minimum investment is 1,500 shares. Further details from Electra Risk Capital, Electra House, Temple Place, London WC2.

Savings

Buy now, while you can

One of the most likely candidates for a downgrading in the Budget on Tuesday is the current issue of National Savings Certificates. If the Chancellor does not withdraw the present 26th issue and replace it with a 27th offering less attractive terms, he will severely restrict the building societies' ability to reduce home loan rates.

Bearing this in mind, if you want to invest in 26th issues, which pay 8.26 per cent tax free - competitive to all but the non-taxpayer - then don't delay. Monday may be your last opportunity.

The last time the Chancellor included a switch in National Savings in his Budget was in 1982 when the 23rd issue, offering 10.51 per cent over five years was replaced with the 24th issue offering 8.92 per cent. The Chancellor gave the quick witted just 24 hours to scotch down to the Post Office and stock up with the 23rd issue.

But when the time came to replace that with an issue with an even lower coupon - the 25th issue at 7.51 per cent - there was no notice at all. So it makes sense to gamble on the fact that the Chancellor may strike out the 26th issue on Tuesday with instant effect.

National Savings are free of income tax and capital gains tax so they make a particularly spicy investment for higher rate taxpayers.

The minimum holding is £5,000 per person and is held in £25 units which can be cashed after giving eight working days' notice.

Investors who need income need not be deterred. The facility to cash part of your holding in National Savings Certificates means that you can



use the investment to produce income with a little care. If a unit is held for less than the five-year term it will earn a lower compound interest rate. The interest compounds from 6.12 per cent in the first year to 6.6 per cent, 7.12 per cent, 7.68 per cent, 8.26 per cent after four years and 8.26 per cent after the full five-year term. But this is equal to a tax paid return of 11.79 per cent for a basic rate taxpayer, 13 per cent for a 45 per cent taxpayer and 20.63 per cent for someone paying tax at a marginal rate of 60 per cent. National Savings Certificates can be bought from banks as well as Post Offices. If you have ever bought any National Savings Certificates of any issue, you should take your holders' card along.

Vivien Goldsmith

ANNUAL INCOME PLAN: 26TH ISSUE NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES			
Based on an investment of £2,000, or 80 units of £25 each			
	At end of	No of £25 units encashed	Income produced
(a)	1st year	6	159.18
	2nd year	5	142.05
	3rd year	5	153.65
	4th year	5	168.05
	5th year	5	185.85
	TOTAL	26	808.78
(b)	1st year	6	159.18
	2nd year	6	170.46
	3rd year	5	153.65
	4th year	5	168.05
	5th year	4	148.68
	TOTAL	26	808.02

During the five-year period a total of 26 units is encashed, leaving 54 units worth £37.17 each - a total of £2,007.18.

Precious metals

Personal platinum offer branches out

After the success of its marketing programme for small platinum bars for the private investor, Johnson Matthey has extended dealing facilities to its Midlands and Northern branches. Now, investors will be able to place orders with the company's branches at Victoria Street, Birmingham B1 3NZ (Tel: 236 9811), and 173-175

Arundel Gate, Sheffield, S1 1TF, (Tel: 23121). Eight bar sizes, varying from 5 grams to 10 ounces troy are available. Bearer Certificates of Receipt, with storage of bars by Johnson Matthey in Zurich or Jersey, are also available, enabling the United Kingdom investor to buy platinum free of VAT.

Johnson Matthey guarantees to repurchase platinum bars of its own manufacture at any time at 1 per cent below the day's middle market price (which is fixed independently of Johnson Matthey). But since there is a large manufacturer's premium on the smaller 5 gram bars, investors will have to see a substantial move in the

platinum price before they can realise a profit. However, Johnson Matthey does agree to rebate half the manufacturer's premium when it buys back. The premium ranges from 25 per cent over the middle market price of platinum for the very small 5 gram bars to only 2.5 per cent premium for the 10 ounce bars.



THE GREAT BRITISH INVESTMENT

- with TAX-FREE growth and life assurance relief!

When it comes to recovery, it's "RULE BRITANNIA"

Great Britain is now well on the way to a great economic recovery. After the hard and lean years of recession, most experts are now predicting a revitalised future - with increased industrial prosperity.

66 Right on target for economic recovery. Sunday Express, 3 March 1984

66 The recession is over, recovery is continuing, company profits are blossoming and equities are the things to buy. Daily Telegraph, 6 January 1984

As a sign of what is likely to come, the UK stockmarket has already broken through new barriers - but this is just a portent of the new peaks that should follow as the wheels of industry start to gather pace. You've often been urged to back Britain. But that was for purely patriotic reasons. Now you know that it should also prove a thoroughly rewarding experience. A great British investment - with no British tax. The "Best of British" is a great British investment in which your money grows COMPLETELY TAX-FREE. It links the special tax-exempt status of Lancashire & Yorkshire - one of Britain's leading friendly societies - with the growth potential of a specialist, professionally managed unit trust - the Gartmore British Trust.

The dynamic potential of the Gartmore British Trust. The other half will be invested in British enterprise, skills and entrepreneurial talent through the Gartmore British Trust, which has achieved investment growth of more than 598% since it was launched 10 years ago - and 36.2% in 1983 alone. The present investment mix is 40% "blue chip" companies, like Distillers, GEC, Brooke Bond, Tate and Lyle, Tricentrol, and Pifco - and 60% "smaller companies" which offer even greater opportunities for strong capital growth. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance and the value of units can fall as well as rise.

"Buy your policy now and beat the Budget" The Times, 3 March 1984

The secure growth of British Government Securities. Half of your money will be invested in British government securities through the Society's own Capital Secure Fund, which has achieved investment growth of 141.3% since it was launched in August 1978.

Full Money-Back Guarantee. If, within 10 days of receiving your policy you decide not to proceed, simply return it to us and we will refund your money in full.

If you have any questions, please phone the Friendly Hotline NOW. Dial 100 and ask the operator for FREEPHONE FRIENDLY - or ring Sheffield (0742) 750077 direct. The Hotline phones will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday this weekend. Answerphone service outside these hours.

For Lancashire & Yorkshire Assurance Society FCBT Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

I wish to invest in the "Best of British" (Family Investment Plan) £20.50 monthly ☐ £40 annually ☐ £1,780 lump sum ☐ (only for investors under 65 next birthday)

Please make your cheque payable to Lancashire & Yorkshire Assurance Society. We will send you a direct debit authority for the payment of future contributions.

SURNAME (MR/MRS/MISS) \_\_\_\_\_

FORENAMES \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any tax-exempt life assurance with any Friendly Society? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If "Yes" please attach name of Society and gross sum assured.

Who do you wish to be your nominated beneficiary? ☐ Wife ☐ Husband ☐ Children

You MUST select one of the beneficiaries shown (who will receive the life assurance proceeds should you die while the Plan is in force). You may only select the children if they are under 18 or under 21 and are in full-time education on the date of application - and, unless you state otherwise, child beneficiaries will be all your children who survive you equally.

1. In the past five years have you consulted a specialist or attended a hospital as an in-patient or out-patient except for minor complaints? ☐ YES ☐ NO

2. Are you currently receiving medication as prescribed by a doctor, except in respect of minor complaints? ☐ YES ☐ NO

3. Has any proposal for assurance on your life ever been declined, postponed or accepted on special terms? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If you answered "Yes" to any of the above three questions, please give full details on a separate sheet.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

"ARE YOU NOW, OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN, A ROLL-UP SHAREHOLDER?"

The draft legislation closing the roll-up loophole has now been published. With effect from 1 January 1984 both income and capital gains of UK residents arising from their holdings in offshore funds will be taxed as income - with one exception.

The exception is where the fund qualifies for "distributing status". Capital gains arising from a fund with distributing status will continue to be taxed at only 30 per cent and then only when the investor's annual £5,300 allowance on gains has been used up.

Holborn Currency Fund is listed on The Stock Exchange, London, is incorporated in Bermuda, is managed in Guernsey by a Prudential Group company and has been designed specifically to achieve distributing status.

The initial charge for Managed Shares in Holborn Currency Fund is 5 per cent. If, however, you are now a roll-up shareholder or have disposed of roll-up shares since 15 September 1983, you are entitled to switch into Holborn Currency Fund with no initial charge whatsoever.

THIS OFFER MUST CLOSE ON 31 MARCH 1984. SEND THE COUPON TODAY FOR FULL DETAILS.

To: Holborn Fund Management (Guernsey) Limited, Bermuda House, St. Julian's Avenue, St. Peter Port, Guernsey Channel Islands. Tel: 0481-26268

Please send me the Prospectus for Holborn Currency Fund and details of the no initial charge offer to roll-up shareholders. (Please print details).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

"Tax relief threatened" Daily Mail, 2 March 1984

HURRY! There is no time to lose. We GUARANTEE to issue your Plan BEFORE THE BUDGET if we receive your application and cheque by mid-day on TUESDAY, MARCH 13 1984 - BUT DON'T DELAY: get it to us on Monday if you can.

SEND YOUR APPLICATION NOW PRE-BUDGET INVESTMENT ARRANGEMENTS

by first class post to Lancashire & Yorkshire Assurance Society, Bakers Pool House, Burgess Street, Sheffield S12 1TF to arrive no later than first post on Tuesday morning.

OR TAKE IT BY HAND, TO ANY OF OUR SPECIAL "BEST OF BRITISH" INVESTMENT POINTS

- Lancashire & Yorkshire offices:
- LONDON: 73 Wimpole Street, W1
  - SHEFFIELD: Bakers Pool House, Burgess Street.
- Royal Insurance offices (Address your envelope "URGENT: Lancashire & Yorkshire to Royal Insurance" - Collections at 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, except Bristol which is Monday only).
- BELFAST: 25 Wellington Place.
  - BIRMINGHAM: 5 Waterloo Street.
  - BRISTOL: Drake House, 5 Nelson Street.
  - CARDIFF: 39 Windsor Place.
  - EDINBURGH: 107 George Street.
  - GLASGOW: 106 Buchanan Street.
  - LEEDS: 10 Park Row.
  - LIVERPOOL: 1 North John Street.
  - MANCHESTER: 10 Exchange Street.
  - NEWCASTLE: 41-45 Grey Street.
  - NOTTINGHAM: Market Square Hse., St. James's St.
  - READING: 35 Friar Street.
  - SOUTHAMPTON: Arundel Towers N. Portland Terrace.

Lancashire & Yorkshire Assurance Society (GARTMORE) FUND MANAGERS

The Tax-Exempt Friendly Society











Starting	8.14 per cent
US dollar	8.75 per cent
Yen	5.36 per cent
D Mark	4.52 per cent
French Franc	11.82 per cent
Swiss Franc	1.72 per cent

January RPI: 342.6 (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

## مَكْرَاهَاتُ الْأَهْلِ



FAMILY MONEY edited by Lorna Bourke

The Chancellor's speech on Tuesday looks likely to be received with mixed feelings among drinks consumers and the licensing trade.

Mr Nigel Lawson is under great pressure to adjust the tax on wine. Last July, the European Court ruled that by leaving excise duty on still light wine at a relatively higher rate than on beer, Britain had failed to fulfil its obligations under article 95 of the Treaty of Rome. This forbids member states to impose on the products of other states any internal taxation which gives indirect protection.

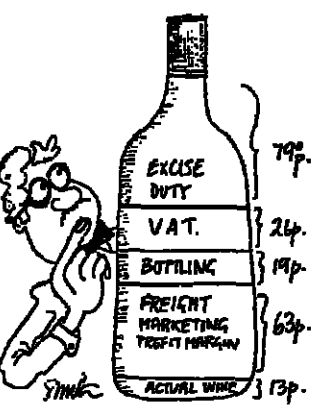
The court held that the decisive competitive relationship was between beer and the lightest and cheapest wines. It took into account the tax burden relative to the volume, as well as the alcoholic strength, and the price of the bottle.

It is estimated that light wine is over taxed by 4.1:1 in relation to beer. To reduce the inequality, the Commission's compromised suggestion of 3 to 1, it is calculated that the Chancellor would need to reduce the tax on wine by about 25p per standard 70cl bottle or increase beer by 7p per pint.

The relative tax yields of 1p on a bottle of wine or a pint of beer are £5m and £95m respectively. This means that it

Wine

# The official case for light relief



British beer production in 1979-82 fell by 12 per cent.

The Wine and Spirit Association, whose members are enjoying a marked increase in sales, has agreed not to demand rebates from Customs and Excise for wines on which duty has already been paid. Investors with stock duty paid in public warehouses are similarly not likely to secure any excise over paid.

Instead of placing an increased tax burden on one drinks category the Chancellor may well decide to reduce wine duties by less than the full proportion and increase beer duties to comply with the EEC judgment.

For the investor, it would be wise to purchase stock under bond ahead of a forecast reduction in duty. At present, light wine not exceeding 15 per cent volume has an excise rate

of £10.17 per dozen bottles and £9.49 for the 70cl size. Sparkling wines - like champagne - attract £12.40 duty per case.

Customs duty cannot be changed by the Chancellor without agreement by the other EEC states. This is paid on any non-EEC wines entering Britain, like port. At present, vintage port attracts excise duty of about £15.45 per dozen bottles with an additional £1 per case customs duty.

Apart from purchasing beer ahead of Tuesday's Budget, the investor would be wise to increase any holding of claret, burgundy, or port before merchants change their lists. Few have published revised ones since the autumn, awaiting the Budget. It is therefore likely increases from the vineyard will be passed on and partly offset the likely reduction.

The actual value of wine in a standard bottle is a surprising small proportion of the overall cost at the lower end of the market - whether in glass, can or bag in the box. On a standard bottle of light wine, costing £2.22, the excise duty accounts for 79p, VAT 26p, bottling 19p, freight, marketing, and profit margins 63p, leaving only 13p for the actual wine.

Conal Gregory

Unit Trusts

# Exception could prove the rule

The resignation of Arbutnot Securities from the Unit Trust Association signals two important turning points in the industry and will have repercussions for investors.

First, it highlights the wide cracks that are appearing in the Unit Trust Association's hitherto effective agreement on control of commissions. Secondly, if life assurance relief is curtailed in the Budget, there is every indication that the product which precipitated Arbutnot's resignation - the new Arbutnot Portfolio Trust - will become a model for future investment products, both within the unit trust industry and among the life offices.

Of these two important developments the breaking up of the UTA commission agreement is the more immediately significant. The cause of Arbutnot's reluctant resignation from the UTA was the launch of the new unit trust on which Arbutnot will be paying renewal commission to intermediaries. UTA rules specifically bar renewal commissions.

The reason for offering

renewal commission is because the fund is set up in such a way that investors will be able to switch between different sectors of the fund - Japan, the United Kingdom or the United States, for example - without incurring liability to Capital Gains Tax or stamp duty. This means that intermediaries who had formerly earned commission by advising clients to switch between funds will be deprived of this income.

But while the introduction of new and innovative investment products which mitigate investors' tax liability may be a good thing, (or in Arbutnot's case, potentially so, since there is no guarantee that the Inland Revenue will agree that there is no liability to capital gains tax on switching), the breakdown of the UTA commission agreement is definitely not.

The Life Offices Association's commission agreement collapsed last year and it is busily trying to cobble together new regulatory life assurance commissions (BOLAC) in a last ditch attempt to head off impending enforced disclosure

of commissions. And if the UTA agreement is to suffer a similar breakdown, then statutory maximums on all management charges, whether it is life assurance products or unit trusts, seem to be the only effective answer.

The unit trust industry's regulation of charges (not just commissions) was praised by Professor Laurence Gower in his report on investor protection as a model to be aspired to by all other arms of the investment industry. It would be a black day for investors if the unit trust industry were to abandon these high standards and follow in the footsteps of the insurance industry.

When an investor buys a unit trust he knows more or less how much of his money is going into the pockets of the managers.

Not so with insurance companies. They can deduct all their expenses off the top from policyholders' contributions.

When the LOA commission agreement collapsed at the end of 1982, Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Consumer Affairs, said that if the LOA could not

put its house in order, disclosure of commissions (a requirement which works happily enough for stockbrokers) would be statutorily imposed.

Not surprisingly, the LOA was unwilling to sit by and see disclosure of commissions forced upon the industry, so it has been trying to put together.

The registry is something of a toothless body in any case, since members are simply obliged to inform the registrar of the commissions being paid. The only sanction which the registrar can employ is to throw a company off the registry, which would presumably not bother a company that wanted to pay higher than average commissions.

The real question remains. Is the Government prepared to stand by and see a commission war developing - which will inevitably drag in the hitherto well regulated unit trust groups - at the consumer's expense. Or is it really prepared to act and put a stop to this pointless war of attrition.

Lorna Bourke

# National Mutual Life can turn your last chance into a great opportunity

According to Budget rumours this could be your last chance to take out a life assurance policy enjoying tax relief on the premiums.

Whether the rumours prove correct or not, the National Mutual Life Secure Savings Scheme has a flexibility that makes it a great savings opportunity. It can meet most of your future needs, whatever they may be, and however they may change from the way you see them now. It is its flexibility and tax efficiency which has made it first choice of so many people, long before the rumours....

- ★ Generous life assurance protection
- ★ £5-a-month units (Minimum 3)
- ★ Units can be cashed individually, and the remainder go on growing.
- ★ Regular and final bonuses added by a mutual society with an outstanding investment performance and no dividends to pay to shareholders.

Here's your opportunity to stake your claim on a National Mutual Life Secure Savings Scheme with premium tax relief. If you are over 18 and under 55, complete the application form for the number of units you require (maximum 12). Send it with your cheque for the first monthly premiums, deducting 15% tax relief from the gross premiums, (i.e. send £4.25 per £5 unit) - see table.

Your application must reach us at the latest on **MONDAY, 12th MARCH**, so please use a first class stamp and post without delay. When we send your policy you will then have TEN days to study the details and decide whether to take up the scheme. If you decide you wish to cancel the policy your premiums will be returned in full.

Number of units	Gross monthly premium	Send cheque for	*Ten year benefit
3 (Minimum)	£15	£12.75	£ 3,007
4	£20	£17.00	£ 4,010
5	£25	£21.25	£ 5,012
6	£30	£25.50	£ 6,015
10	£50	£42.50	£10,025
12 (Maximum)	£60	£51.00	£12,030

\* Assuming the continuance of the Society's current rates of bonus and cannot be guaranteed.

TEL: 01-236 1566



Putting people first since 1830

National Mutual Life Assurance Society,  
5 Bow Churchyard, London  
EC4M 9DH Tel: 01-236 1566  
Registered in England No. 48949C  
Member of the Life  
Offices' Association

## SECURE SAVINGS SCHEME APPLICATION

(For investments up to £50 gross per month) Post to: Marketing Department,  
National Mutual Life Assurance Society, 5 Bow Churchyard, London EC4M 9DH  
I hereby apply for life assurance under the Secure Savings Scheme and I wish to save £  
I gross per month (multiples of £5, Minimum £15).

## DECLARATION

I declare that I am over 18 and under 55; I AM IN GOOD HEALTH\* and I agree that this application shall be the basis of the contract and that the contributions will be paid by myself or by my spouse; the power of the contributions will be resident in the U.K. I agree to become a member of the Society.

SIGNATURE

DATE

\*INTERPRETATION OF GOOD HEALTH  
If you have consulted a doctor in the past five years for other than minor ailments, or if you suffer from any permanent impairment of health, permanent disability, or have had a major operation, please give details on a separate sheet of paper.

SURNAME (MR/MRS/MISS/MS)

FORENAME(S)

OCCUPATION

DATE OF BIRTH

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TSS/1

# SPECIAL OFFER FROM M&G RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched.

The comparative performance table demonstrates just how well it has achieved its aim of long-term growth.

The Fund has a policy of buying shares of companies that have fallen on hard times, and is designed to produce long-term capital growth.

Unit trusts are for long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. This is because the price of units may go down as well as up.

M&G now offer an extra allocation of units in Recovery Fund - a unit trust with an outstanding record.

On 7th March 1984 the estimated current gross yield was 3.1% at an offered price of Accumulation units of 259.8p. Prices and yields appear daily in the FT. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price; an annual charge of up to 1% (currently limited to 7%) plus VAT of the value of the Fund is deducted from gross income. Distributions for income units are paid on 20th February and 20th August (next distribution for new investors: 20th August 1984). You can buy or sell units on any business day and contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement 2 or 3 weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents at rates available on request. Trustee: Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited. The fund is a wider range investment and is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Telephone: 01-626 4588.

## COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE

£10,000 invested at the launch of M&G Recovery Fund compared with the FT Indices, the Retail Price Index and an extra-interest account in a Building Society offering 2% above the average yearly rate.

Year to 31st Dec.	M&G Recovery Fund	FT Ordinary Index	FT All-Share Index	Retail Price Index	Building Society
May 1969	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1969	11,360	9,807	9,978	10,219	10,403
1970	11,760	8,570	9,584	11,020	11,144
1971	19,200	12,110	13,842	12,012	11,937
1972	26,640	13,006	15,808	12,930	12,788
1973	22,720	9,212	11,305	14,300	13,908
1974	15,120	4,637	5,258	17,041	15,261
1975	26,400	11,121	12,998	21,283	16,699
1976	27,200	10,835	12,887	24,490	18,222
1977	59,600	15,680	19,223	27,464	19,899
1978	74,240	15,688	20,400	29,781	21,582
1979	89,200	14,498	22,110	34,898	23,899
1980	102,560	17,287	29,112	40,175	26,980
1981	120,000	20,209	32,582	45,015	30,046
1982	114,240	23,539	41,371	47,449	33,293
1983	162,720	31,638	52,593	49,971	36,270

NOTES: Figures for M&G Recovery, the FT Indices and a Building Society include re-invested net income. M&G Recovery Fund was launched on 23rd May 1969, and all these figures start at that date. Figures for M&G Recovery show the realisation values.

## SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. All applications received by 5th April, 1984, will be given an extra 1% allocation of units (minimum £1,000). This will be increased to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more.

## DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY.

(A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.)

PLEASE INVEST (Min. £1,000)

in ACCUMULATION/INCOME Units (delete as applicable or Accumulation Units will be issued) at the price ruling on receipt of this application in The M&G Recovery Fund.

POST CODE

REF 481114

Signature

Registered in England No. 50778 Reg. Office as above. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

THE M&G GROUP

# TAX RELIEF YOUR LAST CHANCE?

- ★ Many newspapers and financial experts are predicting that tax relief on life assurance premiums will be abolished in Tuesday's Budget.
- ★ Tax relief is a unique Government subsidy which, after a ten year period of a typical endowment policy, would be worth almost £3,000 \* for a £100 monthly premium.
- ★ It is unlikely that policies which are in force by 12th March will be affected - which means you only have a few days left to start a "qualifying" savings plan.

The Lloyd's Life Maximum Investment Plan is without doubt one of the most tax efficient ten year savings plans available. The main features of the Plan are:-

- ★ Very High Levels of Investment - between 103% and 116% of every contribution you make is invested on your behalf.
- ★ Professional Investment Management - your plan invests in the Lloyd's Life Managed Fund which has averaged over 15% net growth p.a. over the 7 years to 31/1/84. There is a valuable facility to switch your investment in the future to a wide range of other funds - currently free of charge.
- ★ Tax-Free Cash or Tax-Free Income - after 10 years you have the option to take either. By way of an example, someone aged 40 next birthday who contributes £100 per month could expect after 10 years :-

A Tax Free Cash Sum of £19,856 \*  
or A Tax Free Income of £ 1,553 \* each year  
(Regardless of your Personal Tax Rate at the time)

(\* Figures assume the Fund grows at 8% p.a. net and are not guaranteed. Values may be more, or less depending on fund performance).

We strongly urge you to apply for a Maximum Investment Plan now by sending your cheque for the first annual or monthly premium (minimum £300 p.a. or £30 p.m.). We guarantee to issue an acceptance letter confirming your Plan is in force before the Budget, provided we receive your application and cheque by Monday 12th March.

If you do not wish to proceed following publication of the Budget, then under the terms of the Government's Statutory Notice your payment will be refunded.

Post your application and cheque TODAY to beat the Budget. Please use a First Class stamp.

To: Lloyd's Life Assurance Limited, New Business, 20 Clifton Street, London, EC2A 4HX.

I wish to invest £ per annum/month (minimum £300 p.a. or £30 p.m.) into a Lloyd's Life Maximum Investment Plan linked to the Managed Fund and enclose my cheque for the appropriate premium. Full details of the Plan will be sent to me and if I decide not to proceed Lloyd's Life will return my premium in full.

Full Name Mr/Mrs/Miss Are you in good health? YES/NO  
(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) Date of birth  
Address

Name of Insurance Broker if any  
Valid only if received by 12th March 1984.

U.K. applicants only

Lloyd's Life

T2



FT STOCK INDICES	
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	83.14 (83.18)
FIXED INTEREST	87.14 (87.12)
INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY	840.9 (837.7)
GOLD MINES	711.7 (856.9)
ORDINARY DIVIDEND YIELD	4.38% (4.40%)
EARNINGS YIELD	9.42% (9.44%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.84 (12.80)
P.E. RATIO (NIL)	12.06 (12.80)
FTSE	1060.1 (1055.8)
High 1060.4, Low 1056.3	

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

## Equities advance: Gilts steady

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End March 23. Contango Day, March 26. Settlement Day, April 2.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

## FT - ACTUARIES INDICES

INDUSTRIAL GROUP	
500 SHARE INDEX	494.15 (492.50)
EARNINGS YIELD	5.67% (5.57%)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.27% (4.27%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.26 (12.70)
ALL SHARE INDEX	501.03 (500.00)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.41% (4.42%)
estimated	

## SHIPPING

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152	Anglo Am Gold	710
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226	Barrow Ridge	86
227	Barrow Ridge	86
228	Barrow Ridge	86
229	Barrow Ridge	86
230	Barrow Ridge	86

## MISCELLANEOUS

231	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
232	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
233	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
234	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
235	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
236	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
237	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
238	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
239	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
240	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
241	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
242	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
243	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
244	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
245	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
246	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
247	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
248	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
249	Essex 7.5-8.5	140
250	Essex 7.5-8.5	140

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## RECENT ISSUES

271	Acas Energy Sp Ord (1984)	140
272	Acas Energy Sp Ord (1984)	140
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287	Acas Energy Sp Ord (1984)	140
288	Acas Energy Sp Ord (1984)	140
289	Acas Energy Sp Ord (1984)	140
290	Acas Energy Sp Ord (1984)	140

## LONDON COMMODITY

291	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
292	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
293	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
294	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
295	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
296	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
297	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
298	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
299	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
300	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
301	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
302	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
303	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
304	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
305	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
306	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
307	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
308	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
309	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
310	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00

## LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

311	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
312	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
313	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
314	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
315	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
316	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
317	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
318	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
319	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
320	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
321	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
322	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
323	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
324	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
325	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
326	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
327	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
328	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
329	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
330	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00

## LONDON GRAIN MARKET

331	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
332	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
333	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
334	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
335	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
336	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
337	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
338	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
339	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
340	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
341	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
342	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
343	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
344	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
345	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
346	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
347	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
348	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
349	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
350	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00

## LONDON OIL MARKET

351	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
352	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
353	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
354	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
355	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
356	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
357	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
358	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
359	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
360	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
361	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
362	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
363	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
364	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
365	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
366	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
367	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
368	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
369	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
370	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00

## LONDON COTTON MARKET

371	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
372	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
373	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
374	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
375	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
376	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
377	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
378	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
379	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
380	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
381	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
382	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
383	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
384	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
385	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
386	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
387	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
388	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
389	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00
390	177.20-178.00	177.20-178.00

## LONDON SUGAR MARKET

1993/94																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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